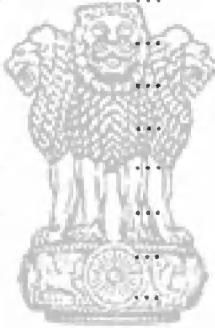


ASSESSMENT REPORT OF THE GILGIT DISTRICT



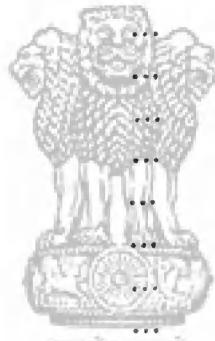
TABLE OF CONTENTS.

Para.	S u b j e c t.	Page.
CHAPTER—I DESCRIPTIVE.		
1	Introductory	1
2	Situation and boundaries	1
3	Dimensions and estates	2
4	Mountains and nature of the country	2
5	Valleys	3
	Gilgit	3
	Nomal	3
	Bagrot	4
	Haramosh	4
	Sai	5
	Astore	5
6	Inundation and diluvion	6
7	Assessment Circles	7
8	First Circle	10
9	Second Circle	11
10	Third Circle	11
11	Trees	13
12	Rainfall	12
13	Climate	13
14	Living of the people	14
15	Dress	15
16	Food	15
17	Sanitation	15
18	Education	16
19	Passage of the rivers	17
20	Routes	18
21	Towns	19
CHAPTER—II FISCAL HISTORY.		
22	Early history	20
23	Summary Settlement	22
24	Regular Settlement	23
25	Fluctuations	25
26	Arrears	25
27	Processes	26
28	Taocavis	26
29	Scarcity and suspensions	27
30	Jagirs and muafis	27
31	Maidan Chakarkot	27
32	Partabsinghpura (Matam Das)	27



CHAPTER—III GENERAL STATISTICS.

33	Area	...	...	...	...	...	29
34	Soils	...	...	...	...	...	30
35	Nautors	...	...	...	...	...	31
36	Decrease in cultivation	...	...	...	...	...	33
37	Changes in soils	...	...	...	...	...	33
38	Area excluded from assessment	...	...	...	...	...	34
39	Irrigation and irrigation projects	...	...	...	...	...	35
	Pari and Chakarkot maidan kuhls	...	...	...	...	...	35
	Gilgit river left bank kuhl	...	...	...	...	...	36
	Janglot maidan	...	...	...	...	...	37
	Ram-ghat kuhl	...	...	...	...	...	37
	Doian kuhl	...	...	...	...	...	37
	Bat mull	...	...	...	...	...	38
	Lashkam kuhl	...	...	...	...	...	38
	Kani-Bari kuhl	...	...	...	...	...	38
	Goshat plot	...	...	...	...	...	39
	Rampur kuhl	...	...	...	...	...	39
	Zaipur	...	...	...	...	...	39
	Harban kuhl	...	...	...	...	...	40
	Bule	...	...	...	...	...	40
	Das in Datse	...	...	...	...	...	40
	Kotwal	...	...	...	...	...	41
40	Dairy farm	...	...	...	...	...	41
41	Population	...	...	...	...	...	43
42	Tribes of assamis	...	...	...	...	...	45
43	Size of holdings	...	सर्वगमन निधने	...	...	...	48
44	Transfers and unsecured debts	...	...	...	...	...	49
45	Alienation of cultivating rights	...	...	...	...	...	50
46	Live-stock	...	...	...	...	...	50
47	Species of live-stock	...	...	...	...	...	52
48	Horse and mule breeding	...	...	...	...	...	53
49	Profits from live-stock	...	...	...	...	...	53
50	Miscellaneous income	...	...	...	...	...	56
51	Fruits	...	...	...	...	...	56
52	Gold washing	...	...	...	...	...	59
53	Mineral and Jungle products	...	...	...	...	...	60
54	Forests	...	...	...	...	...	60



CHAPTER—IV CROPS AND YIELDS.

55	Past harvests	...	...	...	...	...	64
56	Agriculture and system of cultivation	...	...	...	...	...	64
57	Harvests selected for calculating assests	...	...	...	...	...	68
58	Crop returns, crops matured and failed	...	...	...	...	...	68
59	Principal crops	...	...	...	...	...	69
60	Statement of zamindars regarding yields	...	...	...	...	...	70

61	Crop experiments	...	...	...	...	71
62	Comparison with other tracts	...	...	...	...	71
63	Rate of outturn	...	...	...	...	72
64	Wheat	...	...	...	...	72
65	Giram	...	...	...	...	74
66	Barley	...	...	...	...	75
67	Shali	...	...	...	...	75
68	Maize	...	...	...	...	76
69	China and Kangani	...	...	...	...	77
70	Trumba	...	...	...	...	77
71	Mash and Mung	...	...	...	...	78
72	Pulses	...	...	...	...	79
73	Mothi	...	...	...	...	79
74	Cotton	...	...	...	...	80
75	Tobacco	...	...	...	...	80
76	Rishka and Shaftal	...	...	...	...	80
77	Other crops	...	...	...	...	81

CHAPTER—V PRICES.

78	Prices	82
----	--------	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

CHAPTER—VI RENTS AND STANDARD OF ASSESSMENTS.

79	Cultivating occupancy	...	...	...	...	85
80	Rents	...	...	...	...	86
81	Batai rents	...	...	...	...	86
82	Agricultural Kamins	...	...	...	...	86
83	Fodder deductions	...	सन्तामेव न यन्ते	...	...	87
84	The standard of assessment	...	...	...	...	87
85	The surplus produce guide	...	...	...	...	89

CHAPTER—VII ASSESSMENTS.

86	Summary of statistics...	...	...	...	...	91
87	First circle	...	...	...	...	91
88	Revenue rates proposed	...	...	...	...	92
89	Assessments proposed	...	...	...	...	93
90	Second circle	...	...	...	...	94
91	Revenue rates proposed	...	...	...	...	94
92	Assessments proposed	...	...	...	...	95
93	Third circle	...	...	...	...	96
94	Revenue rates proposed	...	...	...	...	97
95	Assessments proposed	...	...	...	...	98
96	Result of assessments	...	...	...	...	98
97	Grazing fees	...	...	...	...	100

CHAPTER—VIII ASSESSMENTS IN KIND.

98	Revenue in kind before Settlement	...	...	...	102
99	Expiring Settlement	...	...	...	102

100	Present necessities	...	...	...	...	104
101	Standard of assessments in kind	...	...	...	...	105
102	Assessments in kind	...	...	...	...	105
103	Proportion of grains	...	...	...	...	108
104	Prices	...	...	...	...	108
105	Results	...	...	...	...	109
106	Fodder	...	...	...	...	110
107	Rates of fodder and centres of delivery	...	...	...	...	112
108	Establishment	...	...	...	...	113
109	Gold revenue	...	...	...	...	113

CHAPTER—IX MISCELLANEOUS PROPOSALS RELATING
TO ASSESSMENTS.

110	Cesses	...	...	...	...	115
111	Malikana	...	...	...	...	115
112	Water-mills	...	...	...	...	116
113	Instalments	...	...	...	...	117
114	Levy of ground rent	...	...	...	...	119
115	Term of Settlement	...	...	...	...	119
116	Financial results	...	...	...	...	120

CHAPTER X MISCELLANEOUS PROPOSALS NOT
RELATING TO ASSESSMENTS.

117	Res and Begar	...	...	...	...	121
118	Kanungos	...	...	...	...	123
119	Patwaris	...	...	...	...	124
120	Zaildars and safed-poshes	...	...	...	...	125
121	Jagir and muafi files	...	...	...	...	126
122	Rakhs	...	...	...	...	126
123	Political districts	...	...	...	...	127
124	Notice of officers	...	...	...	...	129
125	Acknowledgment	...	...	...	...	129
	Glossary of the Vernacular terms	...	...	...	...	131

Statement.	Subject.	Page.
I	Milan Rakba	135
II	Showing average area of Rabi crops	136
III	Showing average area of Kharif crops	139
IV	Showing total crops matured and failed with percentage on area cultivated	142
V	Crop experiment, 1972	143
VI	Showing live-stock and population etc., 1972	144
VII	Showing cultivating occupancy	145
VIII	Showing the monthly rainfall (in inches) of the last 20 years at Gilgit	146
IX	Monthly abstract of Meteorological observations recorded at Gilgit during 1905 and 1915	147
X	Showing trees in Gilgit	148
XI	Produce estimate	150
XII	Showing cultivation of Sambat 1973	158



APPENDICES.

A. Correspondence between Settlement Commissioner, Supply and Transport Officer, on Special duty and Settlement Officer regarding assessments in kind.

B. Note on the Assessment Report dated 15th September 1915, by M. Mohammad Abdulla B. A., Wazir-i-Wazarat, Gilgit.

C. Note on the Report dated 20th September 1915 by Major A. D. Macpherson, Political Agent in Gilgit.

**ASSESSMENT REPORT
OF THE
GILGIT DISTRICT.**

CHAPTER—I.

A—DESCRIPTIVE.

The present Report deals with the Gilgit Wazarat, which now comprises the single Tahsil of Gilgit with its sub-Division at Astore.

Introductory.

The District was formerly made up of the Tahsils of Gilgit and Astore and the Niabat of Bunji. Under orders of His Highness the Maharaja Sahib Bahadur, vide Chief Minister's No. 8573 dated 9th March 1912 to the Revenue Minister, Astore was converted into a Niabat forming a sub-division of the Gilgit Tahsil and the Niabats at Bunji and Gilgit were abolished altogether. The Tahsil of Gilgit now covers the area of the so called Wazarat of the same name and may therefore be said to be the last of the *Tahsils* in the Frontier Districts coming under Settlement operations during the past 10 years. It is the smallest of all the Tahsils of the Frontier Districts both in respect of dimension and cultivation.

The term of last Settlement sanctioned for 10 years expired in the case of Gilgit with the payment of *Kharif* instalments of Revenue for 1961 and that of Astore one year earlier. The present revision of Settlement operations was, taken up in ~~Katak 1971~~ under His Highness' orders conveyed in Chief Minister's No. 7058 of 24th December 1914, to the Revenue Minister. At the last Settlement Astore and Gilgit were separately assessed, as Astore was then a separate charge as a Tahsil. Hattu Pir constitutes the distinct line of separation between Gilgit Tahsil and Astore Niabat. The physical features of the two tracts, their climate, temperature, rainfall, quality of soil and character of agriculture, which are the chief factors for determining the value of land, also vary to a considerable extent. *Prima facie*, it seems, inconvenient to treat the two divisions simultaneously in one and the same report, but taken as units they are very small in extent and are placed now under the administration of one Tahsildar. Moreover, it would mean an unnecessary increase of labour to take up the two separately for assessment purposes. I would, therefore, draw up my proposals for the two ilakas in a single Report.

2. Gilgit, locally known as "Gilit," is situated in that part of the western Himalayas known as the Hindu Kush. It lies between the parallel of latitude 35° and 37° and meridians of longitude 74° and 75° in the south eastern portion of the Hindu-Kush range of mountains. It is roughly the centre of the portion of frontier, which is

known as the region of the Eastern Hindu-kush. The district is separated from India by snow passes, and is situated on both sides of the Indus at the extreme verge of Kashmir territory.

The limits of the ilaka of Gilgit extend to Guech Pari on the Hunza road to the north ; and up the Kargah Nalla as far as Bhaldi mountain to the south, in the direction of Darel. Towards Chilas the Ram-ghat bridge is the boundary beyond Bunji ; westward the ilaka terminates at the sandy plain between Shukaiot and Gulapur on the Gupis and Yasin road, while to the east it is bounded by the Shingo mountain, which lies about 20 miles from Haramosh towards Skardu. Astore is bounded on the north by Gilgit, on the south by Gurez, on the east by Skardu and on the west by Chilas and Hazara. The map appended to this report shows the shape and boundaries of the tract under report, its natural divisions, rivers, streams, communications and villages.

3. The Wazarat measures about 3,200 square miles, of which Gilgit and Astore respectively cover 1,750 and 1,450 square miles, consisting mostly of brown mountain ranges, partly covered with vegetation. Out of this vast area 83.2 square miles have been measured now, of which cultivation is 20.5 square miles.

Gilgit and Astore were made up of 69 estates at Settlement. The Haramosh ilaka consisting of 4 estates was assessed with the Skardu Tahsil at the last Settlement of Baltistan in 1958, but it was transferred to Gilgit Wazarat under the State Council Resolution No. 31, dated 12th April 1901. The four Jagir estates of Basin, Harcho, Rattu and Das-Khiram held by the Jagirdars and not measured at Settlement have now been measured ; and the estates of Partab-Garh (Astore), Sonikot, and Maidan Chakarkot have been newly reclaimed. Hanzal, a Mohalla of Gilgit, situated about 8 miles to the north of Gilgit, beyond Naupur and Basin estates, has now been treated as a separate estate, and Guryal held by only two Assamis has been amalgamated with Fakir-Kot. The number of estates now comes to 80.

4. The whole district is extremely mountainous. Biddulph describes it as follows :—

" As glance at the map will show that Gilgit is situated in the centre of the most mountainous regions of the Himalayas. Nowhere else in the world probably is there to be found so great a number of deep valleys and lofty mountains in so small a compass. Within a radius of 65 miles from Gilgit the survey maps show, amidst innumerable smaller peaks, eleven varying from 18,000 feet to 20,000 feet, seven from 20,000 to 22,000 feet, six from 22,000 to 24,000 feet, and eight from 24,000 to 26,600 feet."

The immense mass of mountains is intersected by numerous deep valleys which are generally narrower at their mouths than higher up. These valleys are from ten to thirty miles in length.

Lofty snow-clad peaks, rugged and barren at their base, but softening off towards their summits into pine-clad slopes and grassy " Maidans " overhang

the deep valleys, in which the heat of summer and the cold of winter are alike extreme. The steep hill sides are so bare and stony, that cultivation to any very great extent can not be carried on there, except where the valley widens out or in the alluvial fans and plains near the river beds. The ranges bounding the valleys are intersected at intervals by narrow nallas, each with its mountain stream derived mainly from melting of snow on the hills above. At the mouth of these nallas alluvial fans stretch with a gentle slope towards the river, which forms the main valley. These alluvial formations are mostly the habitable portions of this mountainous country, on them we find villages and considerable amount of cultivation.

5. Gilgit is naturally divided into the following Valleys.

About 6 miles above Bunji the Gilgit river falls into the Indus. The lower part of the valley, nearly forty miles in length, occupied by Gilgit proper, is bounded on each side by steep rocky mountains poorly wooded. The valley itself contains stony and alluvial plateaus of various forms, and varies in width from one to three miles. The eastern portion of this space is arid, and scarcity of water is keenly felt there by travellers. The line of mountains on the south-west side of the valley, however, is intersected regularly by ravines; and in front of each ravine on both sides of the river is the wide-spread alluvial fan with a portion of it cultivated, where water for irrigation from the streams is carried. The alluvial fan near Gilgit on the right bank of the river is very extensive and has a gentle slope towards the river. This mass of cultivation, 5 or 6 miles long by about a mile wide, is studded with a group of villages, having considerable extent of fertile land with fruit trees; they are dependent for their water supply mainly on the Kargah and Jutial streams, which enter this part of the valley at the western and eastern ends respectively. The village of Gilgit, which is 4700 feet above the sea level is one of the group mentioned, on the right bank of the river. Here the cultivated ground is not part of the fan of a side stream, but is situated on the flat plain of the river alluvium, extending from the river bank to the mountains on the south. From Gilgit, roads run into all the surrounding valleys and its position is really favourable for the head quarters of the District.

The lofty mountains around Gilgit, though bare and rocky at their base, are covered with verdure higher up, and on the south west side, high up above the lower cliffs, is a growth of pinewood. But wood for fuel is scarce in Gilgit.

Four or five miles above Gilgit the valley narrows, being rarely more than one mile broad at any point, opening out, however, here and there showing alluvial fans and patches of cultivation on one side or other of the river. Between the villages of Sharot and Gulapur the District ends, and the Political territory known as Punial begins.

The lower part of the Hunza-Nagar river from the village of Danyor, where the stream falls into the Gilgit river, to the border of Nagar is called the ilaka of Nomal after the name of the

village situated 18 miles north-east of Gilgit. The lower part of the valley, though fairly broad, appears entirely barren; the hill sides are formed of alternate layers of sand and water-worn stones, and are almost all bare of vegetation. The ranges of mountains in the upper part of the ilaka are intersected by streams on both sides of the valley and cultivation lies along the banks of the Hunza-Nagar river or its tributaries. Nomal is the largest village in the valley and is an important place in the district, in as much as its area extends as far north as the boundary between the Gilgit District and the Nagar State. The Naltar nalla flowing from west to east before falling into the Hunza-Nagar river passes by the fort and the rest house of Nomal. The upper valley of the Naltar yields large quantity of good timber, and affords site for summer camp for the troops the ground being good for pasture. Many trees are felled yearly in the summer months of May and June when the snow melts away and the forests are quite accessible. The wood is brought for use on State and Imperial buildings, as well as for fuel required by the troops stationed at Gilgit during the winter. The logs of wood are thrown into the stream, which flows into the Hunza-Nagar river, and are picked up at Danyor about three miles from Gilgit, thus saving a considerable amount of labour.

The Bagrot river flows from the southern glaciers of Rakha-pushi and falls into the Gilgit river about 12 miles below the town of Gilgit.

3. Bagrot. At the mouth of the valley lie hundreds of acres of culturable waste. The lower part of the valley is narrow, where not a drop of water is met with nor is a tree or glimpse of vegetation to be seen anywhere. The first village in the upper part of the valley on the right bank of the river is Sinekar situated at the mouth of a deep ravine, cut by a stream coming from the western hills. In this part of the valley three villages on the right and one on the left of the river are situated not far from each other. Two more villages lie in lateral valley of Tesot-Bilchhar so called after the names of these two villages. The stream passing through this valley falls into the Bagrot river on the right side of it about 2 miles above the point, where the Bagrot river meets the Gilgit. The villages in the Tesot-Bilchhar valley are surrounded by hills; the only practicable means of ingress and egress is along the deep and narrow stream, which intersects the high rocky hills. The slopes of the hills bounding these valleys are dotted with forests, and almost all are excellent pasture-lands. The limited cultivation between the stream and the hills on both sides of the river is highly terraced. The water channels are carried along very difficult cliffs, and the people experience great difficulty to keep them in repair, which has to be made again and again. Above Bulche, the last village on the right side of the Bagrot, is a conical hill, said to be the home of fairies. The Bagrot stream is famous in that about the best gold of the country is found in its bed, and in that part of the Gilgit river into which the Bagrot stream runs.

The small ilaka of Haramosh calls for little remarks. It consists of 4 villages lying on the right side of the Indus, which flows from Rondu, the last ilaka of Skardu adjoining Haramosh, to within a few miles of Bunji between two continuous and lofty mountain ranges. The general character of the tract is rocky. It is intersected by deep valleys of fairly good cultivation. The villages lie at an elevation of from 5000

to 7000 feet. In summer the heat is so intolerable that the people mostly camp out with their flocks in the higher pastures or cultivations. Above Haramosh complete change takes place in the people, who thence upwards are called "Baltis."

Immediately opposite Bunji is the narrow but fertile Sai valley, separated from that of Gilgit by a ridge of hills of moderate height.

5. Sai.

Tracks leading to Darel and Chilas through Paitot and Gashu villages pass through this valley. A large area at the mouth of the valley is still available for extension of cultivation. The villages in the valley excepting a few, which are situated in the lateral nallas, are watered by the Sai river, which rises in the mountains forming the boundary line with Badakhshan and Chitral, and flows south-eastward until it falls into the Indus. The abundant water in the stream is well known for its purity. The main slopes of the mountains enclosing the valley face north, and are, consequently, sprinkled with forests, which afford good pasture-grounds. The land here has the full benefit of the summer sun, and the crops are generally good.

On the left of the Indus is the extensive Astore valley. It would appear from the map attached with this report that the Astore

6. Astore.

river, the basin of the Indus, is fed by two main streams on the south, which meet at Gurikot. One of these, which comes from the Burzil pass, 13,775 feet high, is the eastern branch of the Astore river, while the other stream descending from the Kamri pass, 13,368 feet in height, is the western branch. The ilaka of Astore may therefore be divided into three sub-divisions.

(i) Along the Kamri stream (ii) Along the Burzil stream (iii) Along the Astore river below Gurikot.

(i) In the south of the western branch (Kamri valley) the vegetation on the hill sides is not so abundant as it is towards the Gurez valley, and the pine forests are less extensive towards Astore, than on the Gurez side. Birch and *Pinus excelsa* are also met with along the hills. The valley is almost all over covered with flowers, of which *spiraea* and roses abound. Cultivation is met with at a level of about 10,000 feet and fruit trees are found further down at a height of some 8500 feet. Between the junction of the Kamri and the Mir Malik streams lies the plateau of Rattu, a bare windswept and bleak looking place, where the State is constructing barracks for the troops, who move up to Rattu for a change during summer. The main feeders of the Kamri river are the Mir Malik and Rupal nallas, the former flows from the mountains which separate the valley from the Kel ilaka of Muzaffarabad, while the latter has its origin in the base of the great Nanga Parbat, which towers above in great snowy and rocky masses, and separates this part of the Astore ilaka from Chilas, which is situated to the west of the mountain.

(ii) The Burzil valley is enclosed by mountains, which are not very steep. The Bandipur-Gilgit road runs through the Burzil Pass.

It affords an easier alignment and opens for traffic early in summer ; but it is a march longer than the road passing through the Kamri valley. There is not much grass on this way for transport animals, as is the case towards Kamri, but the hills around are dotted with forests of moderate extent, where grass and other vegetation are ample for the domestic animals. The Bubind nalla and other side valleys are moreover covered with grassy and pine meadows, where firewood, timber, and grazing lands are plentiful.

(iii) At Astore and for miles further on the valley is very narrow at the bottom of the river. The river here is confined between the ends of the spurs from the high mountain ridges. The space left for cultivation extends usually along the hill sides above the bottom of the valley. Grass grows over the hill sides in tufts, bushes of pencil cedar are also met with, while *Pinus excelsa* of small size grows in parts sheltered from the sun and makes a thin forest. Above the vegetation mountains rise to lofty rocky and snowy peaks.

In the valley of the Astore river and its tributaries large pine forests are met with. About 2 miles below the village of Dashkin the valley becomes somewhat wide in the form of amphitheatre, though the base here is sloping. Over both the sides and the base is an extensive forest mixed with the growth of edible pine (*P. Gerardiana*). A mile or two above the point where the Astore river meets the Indus, the Astore is crossed by a suspension bridge at a point, where the end of the Hattu-Spur, which overhangs the valley, nearly meets the mountain on the opposite side of the Astore river. This place is called Ram-ghat, which is reached after descending the height of thousands of feet from Hattu Pir.

6. The rivers here are well known for their occasional inundations, which are attributed to the bursting of glaciers or to the rivers being blocked up by avalanches and masses of ice.

The floods that occurred in the last two decades in the tract under report were as under :—

*They were of the Sambat year 1962, 1963 and 1972.

(i) In Har 1962 a great flood, which took its origin in the Ashkoman ilaka occurred in the Gilgit river. The glacier blocked the stream rising from Sukhtarubat lake in Ashkoman, and the flood that ensued in consequence is said to be the most disastrous one of its kind. The suspension bridge at Gilgit was swept away, and cultivation suffered to an extent of about 21 acres in the villages of Naupur, Gilgit and Bargu Pain Kuhls of Partabpura. Gilgit and Tholdas in Bargu Pain were enormously damaged and the Telegraphic line in Gupis also did not escape unscathed. It is stated that this flood carried away with it some houses of Gulapur in Punial.

(ii) In 1963 another flood came in the Gilgit river. It destroyed 16 bridges on the Gilgit-Shandur road and 3 bridges on the Gilgit-Bandipur road. The flood caused no damage to cultivation in the tract under report, only few lands and zamindari mills were swept away in the Punial ilaka. It, however, barred communication for some time.

(iii) The flood of Bhadon 1963 in the Hunza river was heavy. The Shingshal Nalla in Hunza was blocked by the glacier, which lies about 108 miles to the north of Baltit. The glacier burst and the dam breached, causing the river to rise about 50 feet above the ordinary summer level. The Gilgit-Hunza road was damaged very badly, and several buildings were swept away. The Chhamogah bridge was the first of its kind that fell victim to it that year. The flood reached the Gilgit river on the night of 11th. August 1966, and subsided by 12 noon of the next day.

(iv) The Ruppal nalla, the main feeder of the Kamri river in Astore, is well known for its floods. It receives its drainage from the glaciers of the Nanga Parbat and flows to the south-west of Zaipur. In the winter of 1971 the water of the nalla was stopped by heavy masses of snow until it overflowed the tops of the glacier in summer of 1972 and burst into a disastrous flood, which made its way through the cliffs and the glacier itself. The currents carried with them the wire rope ferry established over the nalla, where it meets the Kamri. It washed away lands along its banks, and damaged the water channels to a considerable extent.

Generally speaking, rivers do not affect the agricultural life of the country. They lie far below the cultivated lands. Torrents, which are practically feeders of rivers, and on which irrigation mostly depends, do not convey much volume of water from the hills in winter, and are often fed by springs occurring on the sides of ravines through which they flow. In snow-melting season water rises rapidly, and torrents run in full swing. It is a general complaint that they sweep before them during freshets cultivation and houses within their reach.

7. The ilaka of Gilgit was divided, at last Settlement, into four Assessment Circles of Bagrot-Pahari, Maidani, Sai, and Sarhaddi according to the natural divisions of the tract. Inside Bagrot-Pahari circle villages were grouped into two classes according to their revenue paying capacity. Mr. MacHutchin also divided the Astor ilaka into four circles and called them 1st Circle and 2nd Circle, 1st Central Circle and 2nd Central Circle. The estates of the District were thus divided into nine Assessment Circles, very small in their number of villages and extent of cultivation.

Naturally the tract under report is divided into two main valleys of the Gilgit and Astore rivers. These valleys differ widely from each other in regard to their character, and as such they should have been divided into two Assessment circles; but the estates lying in each of them are of so divergent a nature that it

is not safe to divide the District into two Assessment Circles according to their natural divisions. The two valleys are sub-divided into several valleys or ilakas, but the climate, temperature, quality of soil, and character of Agriculture of the villages in these valleys are of such various kinds that it is impracticable to form assessment circles by ilakas, the more so because even villages situated at no great distance from each other differ distinctly in character.

It seems, however, reasonable to treat the ilakas of Gilgit and Astore as separate units for rating purposes, and divide villages according to their revenue paying capacity into classes for each of which a separate set of rates may be framed. But taken as units they will have to be divided into at least six assessment circles, and the procedure would not only increase the labour of reporting assessments, but the conclusions drawn from statistics based on the small areas would not be fairly reliable. I would, therefore, divide Gilgit and Astore taken together into three classes of villages irrespective of their relative situation, keeping in mind their climate, crops, and fruits, which vary with the altitude and facilities of agriculture. In this I have been chiefly guided by my personal experience gained during the village inspections, the information supplied by the subordinate officers also not being lost sight of.

The table below compares the groups of villages proposed now with the assessment circles of last Settlement :—

Serial No.	Hadbast No.	Ilaka.	Name of villages.	ASSESSMENT 1950.	CIRCLE 1972.
1	1	Gilgit.	Shukaiot ...	Maidani.	First.
2	2	"	Sharot ...	"	"
3	3	"	Bargu-Bala ...	"	"
4	4	"	Bargu-Pain ...	"	"
5	5	"	Hanzal ...	New.	"
6	6	"	Basin ...	Jagir.	"
7	8	"	Naupur ...	Maidani.	"
8	9	"	Naikoi ...	"	"
9	10	"	Barmas ...	"	"
10	11	"	Gilgit ...	"	"
11	12	"	Partabpura ...	"	"
12	13	"	Soni Kot ...	New.	"
13	14	"	Khomar ...	Maidani.	"
14	15	"	Jutial ...	"	"
15	16	"	Sakwar ...	"	"
16	17	"	Minawar ...	"	"
17	18	"	Nomal ...	"	"
18	21	"	Partabsinghpura ...	"	"

Serial No.	Hadbast No.	Ilaka.	Names of villages.	ASSESSMENT CIRCLE.	
				1950.	1972.
19	22	Gilgit	Jutal	Maidani.	First.
20	31	"	Datse	Haramosh.	"
21	32	"	Sasi	"	"
22	33	"	Hanuchal	"	"
23	37	"	Shamrot-Jagot	Sai.	"
24	38	"	Sabil	"	"
25	39	"	Chakarkot	"	"
26	41	"	Damot	"	"
27	42	"	Darot	"	"
28	43	"	Jaglot	"	"
29	44	"	Bunji	"	"
30	19	"	Naltar	Bagrot-Pahari	Second.
31	20	"	Janglot	Bagrot-Pahari.	"
32	23	"	Danyor	Maidani.	"
33	24	"	Sinekar	Bagrot-Pahari.	"
34	25	"	Datuche	"	"
35	26	"	Bulche	"	"
36	27	"	Farfuh	"	"
37	28	"	Bilchhar	"	"
38	29	"	Tesot	"	"
39	34	"	Chhamogah	Maidani.	"
40	40	"	Maidan Chakarkot	New.	"
41	46	Astore	Doian	2nd Circle.	"
42	47	"	Turbling	"	"
43	48	"	Khud-Kisht Dashkin	"	"
44	49	"	Dashkin	1st Central Circle	"
45	48	"	Harche	Jagir.	"
46	51	"	Pattipura	2nd Central Circle	"
47	52	"	Chongra	"	"
48	53	"	Idgah	"	"
49	54	"	Bullan	"	"
50	55	"	Gurikot	"	"
51	61	"	Chhugam	2nd Circle.	"
52	75	"	Pakora	1st Central Circle	"
53	76	"	Naugam	"	"
54	77	"	Phina	2nd Central Circle	"

Serial No.	Hadbast No.	Ilaka.	Names of villages.	ASSESSMENT CIRCLE.	
				1950.	1972.
55	78	Astore.	Los ...	1st Central Circle	Second.
56	79	"	Pari-Shing ...	"	"
57	7	Gilgit.	Kargah	Sarhaddi.	Third.
58	30	"	Khultare ...	Haramosh	"
59	35	"	Paiot ...	Sarhaddi.	"
60	36	"	Gashu ...	"	"
61	45	"	Bulachhe ...	"	"
62	56	Astore.	Partab Garh ...	New.	"
63	57	"	Chorit ...	2nd Circle.	"
64	58	"	Tarishing ...	1st Circle.	"
65	59	"	Zaipur ...	2nd Circle.	"
66	60	"	Rampur ...	"	"
67	62	"	Rattu ...	Jagir.	"
68	63	"	Mir Malik ...	1st Circle.	"
69	64	"	Fakirkot ...	"	"
70	65	"	Dirle Pain ...	"	"
71	66	"	Dirle Bala ...	"	"
72	67	"	Gomai ...	"	"
73	68	"	Pharutse ...	"	"
74	69	"	Ispah ...	"	"
75	70	"	Sakmal ...	"	"
76	71	"	Shankar Garh ...	"	"
77	72	"	Das-Khirim ...	Jagir.	"
78	73	"	Gudai ...	2nd Circle.	"
79	74	"	Bubind ...	1st Circle.	"
80	80	"	Gotam Sar ...	"	"

In the first class come the villages, which can produce two crops in a year, giram being generally succeeded by maize in Kharif. The crops in this class do not suffer for want of irrigation or from cold. In elevation the villages are comparatively very low (between 4629 to 6,000 feet above sea level). Fruit trees are largely grown and their produce forms a considerable element in the food of the villagers. The grain can be disposed of without much difficulty, the estates being not far off from the markets. The firewood and timber are plentiful, and the pastures are not so rich in grass as they are in the villages of the other classes. The villages in this class lie mostly on the alluvial fans on one or other side of the Gilgit, the Hunza, and the Indus river and on the lower part of the Saif Nalla. They are almost all level and are well exposed to the sun.

In the Second class are placed those estates which are more elevated than those of the First class. The fruit is not plentiful and is inferior in quality to that of the First class villages. These villages can in the greater part of their area produce one good crop of wheat or giram in a year. Giram is often succeeded by china, kangani or trumba in Kharif of the same year. A late spring or early winter, however, damages the Kharif crops. Daenyor and Chhamogah enjoy as good climate as do the estates of the First Class, but they do not compare favourably with those estates in their soil and means of irrigation, and are, therefore, placed with the Second Class villages. The villages lie in the side valleys of the Hunza-Nagar river, in the upper part of the Bagrot, on either side of the Astore and along the banks of the lower parts of the streams joining the Astore river.

The estates of the Third Class are the worst in the District. They are situated at a very high altitude and are extremely cold. The snow lies there longer than in the estates of the Second class. They are mostly *ekfasli* and wheat or giram is the chief crop. Trumba and mattar are uncertain, as they cannot withstand the extreme cold of the tract. In a few estates of this circle a precarious crop of turnips is raised in Kharif in the fields near houses. Trees of all sorts are not considerable in this circle. Frost, snow, even rain during the summer injure the crops. Winter is very long, and the cattle are kept confined to the houses for five or six months of the year. The means of ingress and egress become difficult during winter on account of heavy snow resting on the ground. The villages of this class lie mostly along the Burzil and Kamri streams and their feeders, where crops get five months to mature in normal years.

NOTE :—The mountains enclosing the Second and Third Class villages are covered with forests of fuel wood and timber, and grazing for cattle is plentiful there.

11. At the time when local Rajas ruled the country they themselves held proprietary right in the lands actually cultivated by the people, as well as in all waste lands and forest trees. At the last Settlement, however, assami rights of the lands held by individuals were conferred upon them, but nothing definite was said about the trees growing on such lands. The land revenue was also assessed on the cultivated area only, and no waste lands or trees were assessed.

It was, however, decided afterwards in the correspondence ending with Revenue Minister's letter No. 1074 of 23rd September 1911 to the address of the Wazir-i-Wazarat, Gilgit that

- (i) Trees on land held by the zamindars should be their own property, with which they could deal as they pleased, except the royal or prohibited trees such as Chinars, walnuts, Mulberries etc.
- (ii) The trees on Khalsa or on *public* roads and kuhls were State property.
- (iii) As regards trees planted by people on minor kuhls and village paths, the people might be permitted to prune them, but the pruning

should be strictly limited to the month of Phagan. Pruning at any other time of the year, or any wanton damage to the trees, would be severely dealt with.

As regards the Royal and reserved trees Chinar has so far been treated as royal tree, and walnut and mulberry as reserved trees. The question as to how these trees should in future be dealt with was referred to the Darbar for orders during the currency of the present Settlement, and the final orders that have been received are that chinar as royal tree, and walnut as reserved or prohibited tree, are not to be cut, whereas restrictions as regards cutting of such mulberry trees by the zamindars as stand in their own holdings have been removed, except

1. Gilgit.
2. Barmas.
3. Naupur.
4. Basin.
5. Khomar.
6. Jutial.
7. Partabpur.
8. Sakwar.

in the marginally noted villages where restrictions have been allowed to continue for economical reasons. It may be noted that Sonikot, a village quite contiguous to Gilgit, has probably through an oversight been omitted from the list of such villages, and may be included after necessary sanction.

During the present Settlement clear entries have been made in the record-of-rights in respect of the trees standing on any area, and wherever it may not have been expressly done, such trees should be taken to be the property of the State. Chil, Pine, and royal trees have, however, been considered to be the State property.

Forest trees and such others, which are not the property of the people should be conserved rather than recklessly felled, so as to be of use to future generations of agriculturists, but trees, which stand in the fields or in other isolated plots of waste lands, may continue to be surrendered to the people for their requirements of firewood as at present, and no change in the present procedure is called for.

12. There is but little rainfall in the District throughout the year. The cultivation almost wholly depends for irrigation on zamindari kuhls, which take their origin from surrounding hills, where the snow begins to melt with the advance of summer. In the economy of seasons and agriculture, this country may, therefore, well be described as one, where artificial canals, exclusively carried from hill torrents, are the main and only source of irrigation, the little quantity of rain forming only a negligible factor.

The only place in the district, where there are arrangements to record rain, is Gilgit itself. There is no raingauge in the Tahsil premises, but there is a regular Observatory in the Gilgit Hospital, where figures of rainfall and meteorological observations are regularly recorded by the Observator, a State military Sub-Assistant Surgeon who gets an allowance of Rs. 10 p.m. for this purpose from the Imperial Government. The figures of rainfall as embodied in Statement No. VIII, therefore, represent the quantity at Gilgit proper only.

The following figures show the average rainfall of the past 20 years and they are compared with those of Skardu for the decade from 1901 to 1910.

1. January ...	... '25	7. July ...	... '40
2. February ...	... '19	8. August ...	... '48
3. March ...	... '48	9. September	... '36
4. April ...	... '03	10. October ...	... '24
5. May ...	... '87	11. November	... '03
6. June ...	... '40	12. December	... '09.
Average ...	... 3.22		1.60

Normal	...	...	... 1901—1910
Gilgit	...	...	5.45
Skardo	...	...	7.29

The above figures will show that the rainfall in the first six months is generally greater than that of the second half year. There can, however, be no equal distribution of rain in a country like the one under report, where mountain ranges run in every direction.

Although no record of rain is kept at Astore, yet it may be said with confidence that it gets greater quantity of rain than Gilgit, which has the further disadvantage of having much less snowfall. The reason lies in the fact that the monsoons unload almost all their vapours at or in the vicinity of the Burzil and Kamri ranges of mountains, where depression is evidently great. Moreover, Astore is more favourably situated for receiving rains than Gilgit, as the former lies further north and farther away from the Mid-Himalayas.

Early in the year rains benefit wheat crop, as well as growth of grass on the maidans and along the slopes of the surrounding hills. Later in Jeth rains are naturally injurious at the time of harvesting of the crops. They, however, do good to Kharif crops in Bhadon and feed the grazing grounds. Generally speaking, heavy rains in spring in the colder tracts are injurious to crops, as sowings are delayed with late spring, and early advent of winter is detrimental to the output of second crops.

13. As will be borne out by the figures of rainfall, the climate is generally dry but salubrious. A further proof of dryness of the atmosphere is furnished by the brown and monotonous ranges of mountains stretching all round from one end of the country to the other. The valleys of the Gilgit and the Indus rivers and the lower parts of their tributaries are the warmest in the District, where 2 crops in the year are raised. In these parts it seldom snows in winter, and if it ever does by about an inch or so, it melts away soon after. The lofty and rocky mountains around generally contribute to severity of heat during summer in some parts, while elsewhere it is mild and temperate. During the day heat in places like Bunji seems oppressive in summer, but nights are generally cool. In other parts of Gilgit at altitudes of 5000 feet or over winter is very severe for about a month in January, when average minimum temperature falls to the freezing point. It then gradually rises after the middle of February, when a current of cold wind sets in, and lasts for about a month, after which the season is followed by a brief term of spring, which in turn gives place to summer.

The climate of Astore is very cold and also dry. The snowfall there in winter varies with the altitudes from 2 to 8 feet. In the higher villages the snow remains deposited for six months of the year, and decreases with the advance of season and lowness of altitude.

The tract under report is rarely visited by dews, fogs, and mists.

Statement No. IX gives the meteorological observations as recorded at Gilgit, in 1905 and 1915.

The following table shows the average heat of Gilgit for 7 years from 1809 to 1915:—

Name of month.	Maximum.	Minimum.
January	46.1	31.7
February	53.7	36.6
March	61.5	44.1
April	73.2	52.8
May	86.1	60.0
June	94.8	66.1
July	97.2	71.7
August	95.5	70.5
September	86.8	62.6
October	75.9	52.3
November	63.1	40.5
December	48.3	32.1
Annual mean	73.4	51.7

14. The people are generally poor. They live in low-roofed dingy houses, of which the walls are made of rough stone masonry Living of the people. in mud, as well as of logs of wood in places, where timber is in plenty in the forests not far away from the habitations. There are no glass windows in the houses, or regular fire places with chimneys for kindling fires during winter, which is none-the-less severe in these parts. The only arrangement for light and ventilation is a skylight, provided by way of a roughly made hole in the roof, in addition to the entrance door of the house. Thus the houses are very unclean and unhealthy. The walls, pillars and ceilings of the houses are all black with smoke, which the people have to inhale inside their rooms and suffer in consequence. This skylight, the only means of light and air, is also shut up in winter when it may be raining or snowing.

In Astore and in the snowy villages of Gilgit, when the people have no agricultural pursuits they generally remain sitting before fires in their houses during the day. Life under such unfavourable circumstances may be rather

depressing. This is, however, not the case in the warm villages. In summer the people pass most of the time outside their houses.

At the time when life and property were not quite safe in these parts from the raids and plunders of the neighbouring frontier tribesmen, the people in some villages grouped their houses together. Since the introduction of law and order in this country, however, such precautions are no longer necessary and the people now live in isolated houses built in their own holdings, and realise that congested habitation is insanitary, whereas isolated houses conduce to improvement in public health.

15. The common dress of the people consists of a pajama, a Choga (long coat) sometimes tied with a Kamarband or a sort of country belt, and a Bhooti cap. These are all made of rough Pattu. Well-to-do people have, however, begun to wear cotton cloth in summer. It is the head dress which from its peculiar feature distinguishes the Gilgiti and Astori from his Balti or Kashmiri neighbour. It comprises a woollen bag about half a yard long rolled up outwards to make it into a cap so as to fit the head tight. It protects from cold or sun quite as well as the turban, which is only used in these parts by men of high social status. Pieces of goat or Ibex skin roughly joined together to fit as footwear are used as such by the poor zamindars. These are locally called "Pabbu". The people who can afford to wear country shoes or even boots are not many.

In centres like Gilgit, Bunji, and Astore people have begun to use Panjabi dress.

16. The general food of the people consists of coarse grains vegetables and meat. They use wheat flour and rice only when available. Food. At other times they take girim, maize, china, etc. Fruits such as mulberries, apricots etc. are resorted to as food during the months of scarcity, generally from Baisakh to end of Har.

From July to February they can manage to live on various grains, after which there is scarcity, and dried fruits are then generally taken. For winter use people generally stock dry mutton, which is locally called "Nishallo."

17. The hygienic condition of the local people is any thing but satisfactory. They do not appear to understand even the elementary Sanitation. principles of hygiene, and this may be accounted for want of mass education, which is now being imparted to the requisite extent. In fact the people appear to have got into dirty habits of living for a very long time. To add to their sufferings the kuhl water in some parts, which the people have to use, contains germs of goitre, and the inhabitants have taken to this and various eye and skin affections for which, however, they seem to care very little. Their houses are very insanitary, although this state of things is partly counterbalanced by the mode of their living in scattered and isolated huts built in their own holdings, which is the remarkable feature of village life in these parts.

They are also liable to other ravages, such as malaria, measles, small-pox etc.

The installation of a pure water supply at Gilgit, at a cost of about Rs. 11,000 met in equal proportions by the Imperial Government and the Kashmir Durbar, which has recently been completed, has proved a boon to the official population of Gilgit, though the local people do not appear to avail themselves of it to a very great extent. Part of the Barmas spring water, which is situated at a distance of about a mile above the Gilgit village, has been taken for this purpose, which has, however, resulted in some of the lands of that village being thrown out of cultivation in proportion to the deficiency of water utilized towards piped water supply. The State has compensated the zamindar sufferers in cash for the loss they have thus sustained.

Other measures of sanitary importance such as construction of public latrines at Gilgit etc. are also under consideration, and would be an accomplished fact with the advance of time.

State medical aid in the shape of regular dispensaries at Gilgit, Bunji and Astore relieves a good deal of the sufferings of the people under the close and able guidance of the Agency Surgeon. From time to time the State Medical Officers itinerate from village to village to dispense medicines to the needy and the diseased. The Zenana Hospital has proved a boon in this outlying region of the State. It has been in charge of a European Lady, and subsequently in that of a Indian Female Sub-Assistant Surgeon. Unlike the people of Ladakh District who have certain prejudices against vaccination, the Gilgitis have now begun to avail themselves of the benefits of vaccination whereby eradication of small pox in these tracts has been possible to a considerable extent. The sanitary arrangements of Gilgit proper in charge of the Agency Surgeon are generally improving, and so also the general condition of the life of the people.

18. Education being admittedly the greatest boon that a Government can bestow on a people, attention of the Kashmir Darbar Education, was drawn by Colonel Durand to the need of education in this country, whereupon a Primary School was first established in Gilgit in 1892. Again at the recommendation of Captain McMahon, a branch school was opened at Astore in 1898.

In the Sambat year 1967 sanction was also given to open a new Primary School at Bunji, and the local Gilgit School was raised from upper Primary to middle standard with 2 additional teachers.

There is also a Maktab in Gudai (Astore) which is held in a rented building. An Arabic teacher is appointed there to impart religious education to the boys.

The number of boys in the Gilgit Middle school is at present 166 of which 143 are local and the remaining 23 are foreigners. 45 local students belong to the neighbouring Political districts and 98 are inhabitants of the Gilgit Tahsil.

No tuition fees are charged in any of the schools. With the present state of education in the District, which is progressing by and by, literate men can be locally found for employment as Patwaris and Moharrirs etc. Settlement training has been given to the 13 local men in the present Settlement operations.

19. Difficulty in communications between certain villages is caused by the rivers, which in summer fed by snow fields and glaciers become deep and rapid torrents, and fording becomes impossible. Many small streams fordable in the morning are swollen at noon by the melted snows and become unfordable.

Passage of the rivers. In winter, however, the waters of these rivers subside, when passage becomes easy, and fording is the usual means of crossing the great tributaries of the rivers at the places where their waters are widely spread and are shallow.

About seven miles above Bunji the Indus is crossed by a suspension bridge, which is called Partap bridge after the name of His Highness the Maharaja Sahib Bahadur. In addition there is a boat above Bunji for crossing the Indus and a large raft is used, which is made up of a light frame work of wood and inflated bullock skins.

There is another suspension bridge at Gilgit with a span of 530 feet which was completed in April 1906. This is over the Gilgit river across which the road leads to Hunza-Nagar.

The third suspension bridge lying between these two is one opposite the village of Chhamogah where the Skardu road is separated from the Gilgit-Kashmir road.

The Astore river has also been spanned by suspension bridges in its upper and lower courses. One is the Ramghat suspension bridge 7 miles below Bunji and another is at Gurikot 7 miles above Astore.

There are several wooden and rickety bridges across the Astore and its feeders, the Burzil and the Kamri and their tributaries. A wire rope ferry has been established over the Ruppal, at about the place where it joins the Kamri. Bullock-skin rafts are the only means of crossing the rivers, where bridges do not exist, and they are used at places where the current is less rapid.

The table below shows the rope bridges or "Jhulas" of the tract under report.

Name of river and Jhulas.	Villages connected by the Jhulas.
Hunza, Matam Das	Nomal, Naltar, Partabsinghpura, Jutal and Janglot.
Nalla Datse, Datse (Haramosh) ...	Datse, Hanuchal, Sasi and Khaltare.

It may be noted that the rope bridges are not quite safe especially when they get old. They require annual renewal, which involves a great labour. The people, therefore, often suspend the work and let the bridge remain for several years in use, when the birch twigs dry and perish, and the ropes sometimes break suddenly causing danger to life.

20. The principal routes of communication which open the tract under consideration to Kashmir and the Punjab are the two southern roads. One is the main thoroughfare from Kashmir which runs through the Gurez valley over the Kamri or Burzil passes ; the distance to Astore by the former road being six miles shorter. The road over the Kamri leaves the valley of Gurez at Bangla and crosses the ridge at an elevation of 13,368 feet. The other road, which passes over the Burzil pass, 13,775 feet high, affords an easier alignment, opens earlier in the summer and is, therefore, more attractive than the road over the Kamri Pass. These two branches, however, unite at Gurikot, a village situated below the junction of the Burzil and the Kamri river, where the united waters are called the Astore river. Further on, the road runs along the Astore river and leads to the head-quarters of Astore. Still further it takes zigzag course over the Hattu Pir, crosses the suspension bridge at Ram-ghat and leads to Partap-pul through Bunji by the left bank of the Indus. Thence forward it takes the right bank of the Gilgit river and at 37 miles from Bunji Gilgit is reached. The distance from Bandipur to Gilgit is 195 miles. Gilgit is, therefore, situated about 390 miles from the line of railway at Rawalpindi.

The second southern route, which leaves the Kashmir Gilgit road at Ram-ghat and runs along the left bank of the Indus towards Chilas, is the shortest and easiest of the two. It leads via the Babusar Pass to the railway station at Havelian in Hazara. Both the mule roads are about ten feet in width and are kept under permanent maintenance, but as they run over high snowy passes they remain practically closed to traffic for about 6 months of the year.

From Gilgit a good pack road runs to the north along the banks of the Hunza river, and leads to the ilakas of Hunza and Nagar. There is another pack road from Gilgit to Punjal and further up to other frontier districts to the east. It also leads via Gupis to Chitral.

The eastern route from Gilgit to Skardu leaves the Gilgit-Kashmir road just opposite the village of Chhamogah, where the Gilgit river is crossed by a suspension bridge. It runs along the left bank of the Gilgit to the place where the river joins the Indus, and thence it follows the right bank of the Indus to within half a mile of Sasi. This part of the road, 27 miles in length, is practicable for laden animals. From Sasi to Stak, the last village in the Skardu Tahsil on the right bank of the Indus, the path up the Indus is very difficult and none is more dangerous throughout the Frontier Districts. It is impossible for baggage animals, and is frequented by European sportsmen.

There are two roads leading to the Astore valley direct from Skardu. One is over the Alampi-La Pass about 16,000 feet high along the Bubind stream, which joins the Burzil river at Gudai stage on the Kashmir-Gilgit road. The second road which crosses the Banak-La Pass, 15,500 feet high, passes through the Pari-Shing valley. The distance from the latter pass to Astore is about 32 miles, which lies through forests and along hill sides. Another road from Astore passes over the Mezano Pass as far as Booner. These roads, however, are only practicable for pedestrians and do not remain open for more than three months during the summer season.

It entails some danger and discomfort to cross Burzil and other passes in cloudy weather, which may be followed by snow in the winter months. In spite of the shelter houses on either side of the Burzil pass lives are occasionally lost by avalanches. The means of communications in the valleys almost inaccessible are only practicable along the streams and ravines, which pass through the tract.

21. There are no towns in the District, Gilgit is a Military station and Sadar station of Political Agency, Wazarat and Tahsil.

Towns.

It has also the head quarters of Medical, Public Works Department and Commissariat Departments. In addition to European quarters placed at the western corner, there are Commissariat stores, Engineers' work shop and rest house. It may, however, be noted that some of the European quarters are situated within the line of Barmas village adjoining Gilgit. Telegraph Office, New bazar, Police station, Post office, Wazarat and Tahsil offices and other quarters are situated contiguous to each other. The Fort, parade ground, and the newly built offices and quarters of the Military officers are also situated in their neighbourhood.

The chief article of export is giri, imports from Kashmir and the Punjab being tea, cloth, salt, rice, kerosine and country oil, matches and similar articles of consumption. The people of the neighbouring *ilakas* of Hunza-Nagar, Punial, Yasin, etc., depend on Gilgit for their requirements of cotton cloth, salt, sugar etc. There is no grain market here, but local produce of grain, ghee and gold of the *ilaka* are purchased by the traders from the zamindars to whom some money is occasionally advanced by the former. The shop-keepers, however, sometimes sell the necessaries at exorbitantly high rates, as there is no check by way of competition here.

Bunji, situated 4630 feet above the sea level, is another Military station with a small bazar, a State Primary school, Post and Telegraph offices, a Dispensary and Public Works department bungalows. Other buildings consist of the Sepoys' barracks and the quarters of the officers and officials of the place. It is the head quarter of the Imperial Service Battery, and a detachment of the Kashmir Imperial Service Infantry is also stationed there. Its position is strategically important. The surrounding villages depend upon the small bazar, which is the centre of the small local commerce.

Astore, the sub-division of the Tahsil of Gilgit, was formerly the capital of a kingdom. At the instance of the Settlement Commissioner the Tahsil here was converted into a Niabat in 1969. It is situated some five stages from Gilgit towards Kashmir, and is now the head quarter of the Niabat. It has an old Fort and a small bazar, the first to be met with after leaving Bandipur. There is a Commissariat store godown in addition to the Military barracks, Post and Telegraph offices, a Dispensary, a Primary school and a rest house and a bungalow for the Divisional Engineer. Some traders bring goods from Kashmir and the Punjab, taking back gold dust instead. The sanitary condition of the place is rather unhealthy, as pure drinking water is not procurable.

CHAPTER—II.

FISCAL HISTORY.

22. Early fiscal history of Gilgit is so obscure that it is hardly possible now to throw light on any of the cognate matters ; the reasons being obviously that no records of the arrangements then existing were maintained by the petty Rajas who ruled over the tract from time to time up to the Sambat year 1916. Some accounts of the system of administration, which existed under the old Shin Rulers have, however, been traced, which may be read with interest* :—

" The Revenues of the Ra were derived as follows :—From the land, a tax called "Koodkool" was paid on every crop in kind according to the quality of the land, which was regularly and apparently not heavily assessed. A pastoral tax of a sheep or goat, called "Ganoni mari" was paid by each household every alternate year. This might be commuted at the will of the payer for the sum of two shillings yearly. A tax called "Nyoori shairi" of four shillings a year was paid by each water mill, which was, however, exempted from payment the first year after construction. For washing gold-dust, in which a considerable number of people in certain villages find employment during the winter, a fixed tax of fifty five pounds sterling called "Ra-i-dillki" was paid yearly. In the autumn a grape tax called "Jachai toni" was levied in kind on every vine according to its size ; and when the wine-making began, a certain number of measures of grape juice, called "Rekhoo" were also paid to the Ra. A money tax of sixteen shillings called "Gare Toloo" was levied on each marriage, for which the bridegroom was liable. Every weaver's house furnished eight yards of cotton cloth to the Ra, which was called "Buyetcho patchi." Silk also which was produced by nearly every household, paid a tax called "Chooshi purtai" which consisted of as many cocoons as the Charbooo could grasp in one hand, out of the heap collected by each family. Four villages in which silk was not produced, paid a commutation of one fat sheep, valued at eight shillings, which was called "Chooshi mari," per village.

" Besides these a curious tax, called a "Chaette goe" was paid by the villages of Burmees, Khomer, and Naupur only, which consisted of all the milk and butter produced by one cow from each house in those villages between the Ganoni and Chili festivals,—that is, from the middle of May to the end of October. These three villages also gave the Ra one small kid yearly from each house. This impost was called "Cheloo". No reason is assigned for the origin of these peculiar taxes, which are said to have been instituted by Queen Jowari. No Shin Ruler would have received cow's milk. Another local tax, called "Sategi," was paid by the village of Bagrot. This originated in a visit paid by Habbi Khan when a boy, during the reign of his mother Jowari, on which occasion the village community made him a grant of a piece of land. It was, however, found inconvenient to cultivate it under the same system as the other crown lands, so it was shortly afterwards resumed by the village on an agreement to pay a tax of thirteen taraks of wheat, equal to five and a half quarters, yearly.

" Every trader who entered the country paid a duty "Masool" of one roll of cloth out of each load, or two per cent of live-stock, or the equivalent in other goods. At the time of sheep-slaughtering at the winter solstice one hind quarter was furnished by each house, out of which a certain number went to each of the minor officials, and the head and hind quarters of all game killed was the perquisite of the Ra.

" Money payments were made in gold-dust, which is still largely used as a circulating medium. An amount of the value of eight shillings is called "Baghaloo".

" The Yerfah or Ra's steward was responsible for the collection of the land revenue ; but special men called "Burro" were appointed to collect the other dues.

" In addition to these sources of revenue, the Ra owned tracts of land in each of the larger villages, the cultivation of which was managed by the Yerfah. In each of the villages a certain

number of families called "Wairetche" were responsible for the ploughing, sowing and irrigation of the Ra's lands under the management of the Yerfah, in return for which they were exempt from all other payments. The harvesting and winnowing were done by the whole village, who combined on certain days for the purpose. The "Wairetche" of Gilgit, who numbered twenty families as against six or seven in other villages, were also bound to furnish a load of wood from each family daily during the winter, for the use of the Ra's household, and one load of torchwood a year. Certain families in Gilgit also held the hereditary office of cooks to the Ra, for which they were exempt from all taxes. There are still four families who claim that their ancestors cooked for Shiri Buddutt, and who take no part in the Teleni festival, which celebrates his death, but shut themselves up in their houses, and regard it as a time of mourning. These are apart from several other families of hereditary cooks to the later rulers, who still render service to the present Ra of Gilgit.

"The country was divided into districts, for each of which a Wuzeer was responsible. Wuzeers were obliged to be of good family, and are still chosen only from the three principal castes, *viz*; Rono, Shin, or Yeshkun. The office was not hereditary, but was held for life. On the appointment of a Wuzeer, three pieces of land were taken from among the peasant's holdings, and assigned to him in addition to his own family possessions. Four families were appointed to manage the whole cultivation of his land and furnish him with one household servant, in return for which they were exempt from all dues of personal service to the Ra. The Wuzeer was responsible for the peace and welfare of his district, and for leading the men of it in war. When the population was called to arms, the Wuzeer had the right of releasing one man in each fortified village from military service, in return for which he received from the man so released two "baghaloos" of gold-dust on the return of the army. If however, the expedition returned without having fought, only half the fee was paid. On the occasion of a marriage taking place, a cake of leavened bread was sent to the Wuzeer of the District by the father of the bride.

"In each village was a "Trangfah" appointed by the Ra, who acted under the orders of the Wuzeer within his own limits. In time of war he had the right to release three men of his village from military service, from whom he received the same dues as the Wuzeer. He also received a fee of three shillings on each marriage taking place in his village and had three families assigned to him for service, who were exempt from all other tax or service. He further received sixteen yards of cotton cloth yearly from the village weavers and was especially charged with the management and preservation of the irrigation arrangements.

"The dues paid to all officials are called "Luspik."

"Next in rank to the Trangfah, but with totally different duties, came the Yerfah, who had charge of all the private lands of the Ra, to whom he filled the office of steward. He was responsible for everything connected with the cultivation of the Ra's land in each district, and received six kharwars of grain out of each crop. As *Luspik*, four families in Gilgit, and one in each outlying village in which the Ra owned land, were assigned to him, whose duty it was to furnish him each with a yoke of oxen for ploughing his own lands. This service he could commute if he pleased for one baghaloo of gold for each yoke of oxen. He was also responsible for the collection of the "Koodkool" tax, but no authority could be exercised over him by the Wuzeers of Trangfahs.

"Next to the Trangfahs among the district officials was the Charboö, who acted as an assistant to the Trangfah in each village. His *Luspik* consisted in exemption from all taxes, and two of the ruler's fees on marriage a year; it being part of his duty to collect the "Gare toloo" tax. He also received a certain amount of the meat tribute. To help him in his work he was allowed four men called "Zeytoo" who only served for a year as peons to the Charboö, and were paid by an impost of 12 lbs of grain from each house, which was divided among them.

"Dr. Leitner suggests that these names of officials are of Tartar origin. None of them now exists in Baltistan except Wuzeer and Trangfah (Tarangfah). If it be the case that they are originally Tartar titles, it may be taken as a proof of the influence which the Iskardo rulers once exercised in Dardistan.

Justice was administered by the Wuzeers in their own districts. Cases which principally arose out of disputes about land were generally settled by a fine of cattle, sheep, or gold-dust. Any case involving a larger fine than one baghaloo of gold dust was heard by the Ra. Serious crimes, such as murder or treason, were punished by the destruction of the whole family of the offender. His house was razed to the ground and his relations reduced to slavery, and sold or distributed according to the will of the "Ra."

23. The Dogra rule in Gilgit was established in 1917, and Mian Jawahar Singh, the first Wazir Wazarat, appointed in the District, Summary Settlement, assessed the tract to Rs. 7842-5. With a view to meet the requirements of the Military garrison, stationed at Gilgit, every village was made to pay the greater portion of its revenue in kind, which was valued at Rs. 6475-7 or 82.5 per cent of the total revenue demand. The details of the revenue as given in the Assessment Report of Sardar Amir Singh are as follows:—

Revenue on			Value in rupees	Paid in
			Rs. A. P.	
Land	...	...	6475 7 0	Grain.
Fruits	...	...	120 0 0	Gold.
Gold Washing	...	...	690 0 0	Gold.
Goats.	...	...	451 12 0	Goats.
Butter	...	...	61 0 0	Butter.
Ponies	...	...	34 4 0	Cash.
Mills	...	...	2 14 0	Cash.
Phali	...	...	7 0 0	Phali.
Total	...	...	7842 5 0	.....

In addition, Nazarana to Wazir and Trangfah (Lambardar) and fees due to Trangfahs amounted to Rs. 385. No methodical measurements were made, nor were any records prepared. The Assessments were based apparently on the following measures of land.

4 Chus	=	1 Chukli
4 Chuklis	=	1 Chunis
4 Chunis	=	1 Makmi

These measures varied from village to village and nothing definite could, therefore, be determined from these standards. The demand based on these measures of land could not but be uncertain, with the result that the influential and the astute got their lands leniently assessed, whilst the poor got no relief.

The demand fixed by Wazir Jawahir Singh continued to increase, until it reached Rs. 10,494-13-6, excluding cesses of Rs. 432-4, at the end of 1950, when the Settlement operations were started in the District.

As to the Revenue history of Astore previous to Settlement, I have nothing to add to the detailed account given in the Assessment Report of Astore (Section VI, part II).

24. The table below compares the Assessments of Astore and Gilgit under summary Settlement with those of Regular Settlement.

Regular Settlement.	Name of ilaka.	Demand of summary Settlement.	Demand of regular Settlement.	Current demand.
		Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
Gilgit	...	10494 13 6	11119 10 0	15985 7 9
Astore	...	6024 3 6	7356 14 0	10648 1 9
Total	...	16519 1 0	18476 8 0	26633 9 6

The current demand of Gilgit includes Rs. 1,151, the assessment of the 4 villages of Haramosh transferred from Skardu Tahsil. It will be seen that there was a little increase in the assessments imposed at Regular Settlement compared with what the people paid before, though areas granted under Regulation No: 6, and Nautor made otherwise than under the procedure of the Regulation, have contributed to an appreciable increase in the demand fixed at Settlement.

The following remarks of the Settlement Commissioner dealing with present assessments made by him during his visit to Gilgit in 1910 may be read with interest:—

"Considered as a purely cash assessment, the revenue is high in Astore, and decidedly moderate (on the whole) in Gilgit, but it is far from being a purely cash assessment, and the rates at which the cash revenue is commuted into grain bear so little relation to actual prices that the amount taken in cash is really far more than the nominal amount. (This was the case at Settlement also: e. g. in his Review of the Astore Report Mr. Lawrence remarked, para 6, that the commutation rate bore 'absolutely no relation to the market rate'). The forced sale of grain to the Supply and Transport Department in Gilgit adds a further burden, for these rates also are artificial, and far lower than the actual value of the grain. It results that an estate in Gilgit paying nominally a moderate revenue of say Re. 1-8-0 per acre may really be paying the equivalent in cash, grain, grass, and gold of Rs. 4 or Rs. 5 per acre.

"Though the Astore Tahsil seems at first sight to be so much more highly assessed than Gilgit, it has the important advantage of paying far less revenue in kind, and of exemption from forced sales. It has moreover a large number of ponies, which Gilgit has not; without them the present assessments would probably have broken down.

"The distribution of the revenue over villages does not appear to me to have been carried out with much judgment, and in some cases the village assessments seem decidedly eccentric; so too the apportionment of the burden of the revenue in kind; in Gilgit for example the proportion taken in kind is usually about $\frac{2}{3}$ or $\frac{1}{4}$, and for the whole Tahsil the proportion taken in kind was about

70 per cent; but we find one estate paying only Rs. 4-5-0 in cash out of a total revenue of Rs. 210 it is hardly possible that there can have been any sufficient reason for this; the same village has to make forced sales to the value of Rs. 100 and the total cash value of what it pays or loses is probably not far short of Rs. 700. In the same way Gilgit Khas nominally assessed at Rs. 1914 really pays about Rs. 5500; (in addition to Muafi).

"The internal distribution of the village jamas also seems unsatisfactory: to begin with, the soil classification* ('manured irrigated' and 'irrigated') is artificial, and not in accordance with distinctions locally recognized. The line drawn between two classes is quite arbitrary, yet *every* village in Astore assessed its 'hail abi' at double the rate for 'abi'. This means that in the important work of distributing the revenue over holdings the people themselves in most villages probably did not get a hearing, and a stereotyped method of distribution was forced on them from above. (This proportion of 2 to 1 is also that between the revenue rates adopted; I have not seen the *bachh* files, but I have little doubt that the people were recommended to "follow the proportions of the revenue rates", and did so, with very little understanding of what this meant). Moreover the revenue on individual holdings (in many instances, apparently) disagrees with that which it should be according to the sanctioned method of distribution, these differences being, I understand, the result of a practice called "Nazri kamni beshi" which means that the assessment of holdings was varied at the discretion of the Settlement Officials. It is said that this was done in order to avoid too violent a readjustment of inequalities previously existing, but obviously the practice lends itself very easily to abuse.

"In Gilgit the distribution is probably better, separate rates for different parts of villages being common; this indicates that the people had more voice in the matter, and that there was some discrimination; but here too, where a distinction is made between *hail abi* and *abi*, the proportion is, I think, invariably 2 to 1.

"Revenue in kind. The proportion taken in kind is about $\frac{1}{4}$ th of the revenue fixed at Settlement in Astore, a few high and distant villages being exempt, for example those of the Kamri *nal* above Rattu, (though nearly the highest of the lot has to pay part of its revenue in kind, for an intelligible reason).† In Gilgit the proportion is much higher, and out of a total *khalsa* revenue (Settlement) of Rs. 10690 an amount of Rs. 7448 is payable in kind; the grain paid may be taken roughly to be worth $2\frac{1}{2}$ times its nominal value; in addition there is *Kharid* grain to the nominal value of Rs. 5021, which is worth perhaps double what is paid for it, and *kharid* grass and *Bhusa* for which fair rates seem to be allowed. If the above values are correct, the nominal revenue of Rs. 10690 is really equivalent to about Rs. 27000. In addition there is the revenue assessed on land brought under cultivation since Settlement, which is taken wholly in cash."

*Except in Haramosh, which was dealt with in the Baltistan Settlement.

†This however was not the result of error or dishonesty, as might be supposed. It was Mr. MacHutch's own proposal. See page 32 part II of his report, but no reasons were stated.

25. Fluctuations in revenue since Settlement are given in the following table : —

Details.	1951 & 1952	1955	1958	1961	1964	1967	1970	1972
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs. a. p.
Cash	7399	7619	10323	10753	11914	14063	14776	15385 10 3
Gold	777	777	777	777	777	777	777	777 8 0
Kind	9761	9734	9996	10002	9952	9952	9952	9948 15 6
Total	17937	18130	21096	21532	22643	24792	25505	26112 1 9
Khalsa.								
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs. a. p.
Cash	...	539	539	523	523	524	524	521 7 9
Total	...	539	539	523	523	524	524	521 7 9
Jagir and Muaf.								
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs. a. p.
Cash	7938	8159	10846	11276	12438	14587	15300	1597 2 0
Gold	777	777	777	777	777	777	777	777 8 0
Kind	9761	9734	9996	10002	9952	9952	9952	9948 15 6
Total	18476	18670	21619	22055	23167	25316	26029	26633 9 6

The records do not throw any light as to the reasons which have contributed to yearly increase under revenue since Settlement. As far as it has been ascertained, it appears that the increase is due chiefly to areas acquired under Regulation No. 6 and partly also to Nautors. The Haranosh jilka transferred after Settlement has also increased the demand of the taluk by Rs. 1151. The revenue in gold stands unaltered.

At Settlement the State Rakhs and areas held by different State and Imperial Departments were assessed by mistake to Rs. 430-11-7, but this sum has never been realised and has, therefore, been excluded from the Assessment of the District, — c...

26. It is creditable that at the moment of writing there are no arrears of revenue outstanding in this District. Any insignificant balances during previous years have generally been cleared in the succeeding years.

Although the assessments of the Regular Settlement have been paid regularly, yet it cannot be said that ~~they~~ were moderate all round. Complaints of

heavy assessments in Astore have not been uncommon. The zamindars there have been paying their revenue in kind by importing grain from Kashmir. The situation requires improvement.

27. The table below shows the number of coercive processes issued from Processes. 1963 to 1972, the records of the previous years being not available.

1963	33
1964	3
1965	12
1966	80
1967	102
1968	62
1969	42
1970	24
1971	42
1972	43

The increase in the number of processes from 1966 to 1968 is due to the revenue in grain having not been paid in time. It may also be remarked that the dilatory habits of Lombardars and revenue payers, and not their inability to pay, are chiefly responsible for the issue of processes. Severer measures, however, had seldom to be employed.

28. The table below shows the amount of taccavi given to zamindars from 1963. Taccavis.

Years	Cash Rs. a. p.	Kind.	
1963	1,200 0 0	324	Maunds.
1964	50 0 0	307	Maunds.
1965	945 0 0	300	Maunds.
1966	1,120 0 0	...	
1967	470 0 0	70	Maunds 16 Seers
1968	2,050 0 0	177	Maunds.
1969	995 0 0	...	20 Seers.
1970	952 0 0	...	
1971	3,980 0 0	...	
1972	750 0 0	...	

Taccavi in cash was given mostly for the purchase of bullocks, which are imported yearly in fairly large number in such of the estates where they are insufficient to meet the local requirements. In 1968 and 1971 taccavi grants in addition to those for bullocks were sanctioned specially for the purchase of ponies by the zamindars, to improve the transport arrangements of the District, and this accounts for the high figures of taccavi given during these years. The taccavi in grain was meant for seed, as the zamindars consume most of their grain produce in the months of winter, and stand in need of temporary help from the State at the time of sowing.

The amounts of taccavi grants are however no reliable index to judge the fairness or otherwise of the assessments imposed at last Settlement.

29. There has been no scarcity worth the name in this ilaka, nor has the Scarcity and suspensions. necessity of suspensions or remissions ever arisen since Settlement. The hill torrents, which constitute the main and practically the only source of irrigation, receive their perennial supply of water from the surrounding mountains, which are always covered with snow. All the crops are thus irrigated, and total failure of crops due to scarcity of water is almost impossible in a country like the one under report. For this reason scarcity amounting to famine is a matter of rare occurrence in this country. But the unfavourable agricultural conditions attributable to insufficient or untimely rainfall are not altogether unknown, and the damage to crops done by various kinds of insects is also not uncommon in the District.

30. Rs. 521-7-9, or 2% of the land revenue, is assigned in this District, *vis* Rs. 287-6-9 in Gilgit, and Rs. 234-1-0 in Astore. Jagirs and muassis.

The Jagir villages of Basin, Harcho, Rattu and Das Khiram were not measured and assessed at Settlement. The above figures do not, therefore, show the total amount of the Jagir grants in the Tahsil.

31. I have given my full remarks in para 39 (i) of this Report on the Maidan Chakarkot. construction of Sased Pari kuhl and the Chakarkot branch.

The newly colonized area of the Chakarkot maidan has been measured now to form a separate estate, and placed in the third circle.

Out of the total area amounting to 111 acres only 10 acres were brought under cultivation at the time of measurement. The Wazir Wazarat in his letter No. 1716 dated the 12th March 1915 proposed (i) that the procedure of Regulation No. 6 should not be followed in respect of this village at present.

(ii) the settlers may be allowed to make as much Nautor as they can, and

(iii) the area should not be assessed to revenue for five years.

The proposals received the sanction of His Highness the Maharaja Sahib Bahadur under order No. 2138, dated 6th January 1916.

The estate has, therefore, been excluded from the assessments, and may be assessed after five years at the proposed revenue rates.

32. Cultivated area amounting to about 170 kanals assessed at Rs. 20-6 in the Matam-Das village was held by certain Assamis of Partab Singhpura (Matam-Das). the neighbouring villages of Jutal and Jaglot. Its irrigation channel remained in a precarious condition, and was swept away by a flood in the Nulla immediately after Settlement, and the land was deserted by the Assamis.

In 1901 the Political Agent recommended that the waste at Matam-Das should be granted to the Mir of Hunza for cultivation by the redundant popula-

tion there, as an experimental measure. The State Council accorded their sanction to the allotment and distribution of the said area amongst the Hunza people on the following conditions :—

- (i) That for the first 10 years the Mir of Hunza should be allowed to hold the lands free of payment of any revenue,
- (ii) that for the 2nd and 3rd decades he would be required to pay 5 and 10 per cent respectively to the State out of the revenue assessed on the lands brought under cultivation,
- (iii) that after the expiration of the said terms land revenue shall be realised from him at the rate in force in the nearest villages for lands of similar description and quality, subject to a remission of 10 per cent which shall be allowed to the Mir of Hunza during the pleasure of the Darbar, and
- (iv) that the Mir be clearly given to understand that he shall not possess or exercise any Civil and Criminal jurisdiction over the colonists.

The kuhl was constructed at a cost of about Rs. 2000, of which Rs. 828 were paid by the Kashmir Darbar recoverable in 10 years, and the balance by the Imperial Government as a free grant. The land amounting to 1085 kanal 13 marlas was distributed by the Wazir Wazarat in 40 equal shares amongst the Mir of Hunza, his Wazir, Humayun Beg, and other people of Hunza, and they were put in possession of it from Rabi 1962. The total land of the village as measured now comes to 559 acres, of which cultivation is 134 acres. The village is named Partabsinghpura after the name of His Highness the Maharaja Sahib Bahadur, vide Revenue Minister's endorsement No: 588/335. Dated 7th Assuj 1912. It has been assessed now to Rs. 450.

According to the orders passed by the late State Council 5 per cent of the revenue is due to the State from Rabi 1972, which is being realised accordingly.

CHAPTER.—III.
GENERAL STATISTICS.

33. The following table compares the areas (in acres) of the present and the last Settlement, the State and Government gardens and other lands not liable to Assessment being excluded.

Area.	Year.	1st. circle.	2nd. circle.	3rd. circle.	Total.
Cultivated	Settlement ...	4855	3895	1056	9806
	Now ...	49.5	39.7	10.8	100
Culturable	Settlement ...	3714	6652	3578	13944
	Now ...	26.6	47.7	25.7	100
Unculturable	Settlement ...	11159	9499	2179	22837
	Now ...	48.9	41.6	9.5	100

It would appear from the figures given above that there has been an appreciable increase in the cultivated area since Settlement. More accurate measurements have been made in the present Settlement, while those made at the last Settlement were hurried through, and no deductions made for the Banjar areas included in the cultivated fields. The Jagir villages not measured at the last Settlement have now been measured and included in the assessable area. Increase in cultivation is, however, largely due to Chaks granted under Regulation No. 6 or to waste lands having been broken up irrespective of the Regulation.

Even excluding the cultivated area of Jagir villages, the net increase in cultivation since the last Settlement comes to 2983 acres, which is thus distributed over the circles :—

			Acres
1st. Circle	...	...	... 1157
2nd. Circle	...	...	... 1117
3rd. Circle	...	...	... 709

The culturable waste returned now includes good deal of Banjar-Ishpati and Banjar Kadim Ghas, from which Ishpat and grass are cut and stored, as they are highly valued in the tract, where fodder is scarce, and the cattle have to be kept confined during winter. These lands are in reality unculturable because they generally form mostly the bank of streams and steep hill sides. All that is actually culturable is not likely to be brought under cultivation in the near future, as much of the land recently brought under cultivation has proved of poor quality, but in a country where even inferior pieces of land can be made to yield good crops, if water and manure could be made available, a good deal of waste will, it is expected, be gradually absorbed in cultivation.

The unculturable waste has decreased in the first and second circles, as in the present Settlement only the plots actually held by the people have been measured, and the vast sandy areas situated far from the villages, and of no practical use to the villagers, have been treated as Berun line. Hill torrents, beds of ravines, sanglakh, roads and houses have been taken to be unculturable wastes

34. The Haramosh estates were transferred to Gilgit after Settlement.

Soils. They have the same nomenclature of soils as were adopted for Skardu at the first regular Settlement of Baltistan. In Gilgit and Astore soil classification of last Settlement as remarked in para 24 was arbitrary, and did not accord with distinctions locally acknowledged. The old and new classification of soils are shown below :—

CLASSES OF REGULAR SETTLEMENT.			Recorded now.
Haramosh.	Gilgit and Astore.		
Maljing	Hail-abi	... ...	Paji
.....	Shali-abi	... ...	Bruin
Barsad	Abi	... ...	Awaji
Sagzar...	Sagzar	... ...	Shini
Das ... ... ...	.....		Das
.....	.....		Kharkat
Bruk ... ... ...	.....		Nital
Ul	Rishka	... ...	Ishpati
Bagh Maljing	Bagh ...	... ...	Bagh
Bagh Barsad	Bagh ...	... ...	Bagh

Practically no crops in Gilgit and Astore, as in other inhabited parts of the Hindu Kush, can grow without irrigation ; there are 13148 acres of cultivation out of which only 32 acres do not receive irrigation throughout the year. The classification of soils is now, therefore, based on (i) quality, (ii) quantity of manure they receive, and (iii) their situation in respect of habitation.

The classes of soils as sanctioned by the Settlement Commissioner, vide his order No : 11, dated 2nd : Baisakh 1972, are given below :—

(i) *Paj* (*manure*) or *Paji*. A rich loamy land having deep layers of soil, and situated near habitations. It is comparatively better manured and looked after, and yields two crops a year in all the villages enjoying climate warm enough to admit of the second crop.

(ii) *Bruin*. Slightly sandy land almost devoted to Shali.

(iii) *Awaj (weak) or Awaji*. The soil is rather weak. It begins where Paji ends, and, extends to the confines of cultivation. It does not receive as much manure and attention as Paji.

(iv) *Shini*. A sagzar reserved for vegetables.

(v) *Das*. A poor sandy soil, not well looked after, lying generally on the outskirts of an estate. It is very rarely manured. It yields one crop a year, but at times is left fallow for a year or two to recoup its strength.

(vi) *Kharkat*. Poor stony land. The shallow layers of earth do not let the vegetation grow well. It yields one crop a year and is often left fallow like Das.

NOTE:—*Das-Kharkat* are recorded “eksala” if cultivated once every two years, and “do-sala” in case cultivated once every 3 years

(vii) *Niral*. Lies high on the hills at a great distance from habitations, and is not easily accessible nor does it get much manure. Crops grown on this soil are exposed to cold. Temporary habitations for men and animals are met with in this class of soil.

(viii) *Ishpati*. A soil reserved for Rishka (Lucern), a fodder grass much valued.

(ix) *Bagh*. Land on which fruit trees grow.

35. The orders passed on the Assessment Reports of the last Settlement of Gilgit and Astore directed that zamindars should be allowed to break up Banjar lands included in their holdings or recorded as Shamlat, free of revenue for the term of Settlement. This concession was however, withdrawn in 1958 at the instance of the then Wazir Wazarat, and also the lands brought under cultivation since Settlement were assessed with retrospective effect. Thenceforth no waste land was broken up except under the procedure of Regulation No. 6. The rule that land granted as Chak should be held free for two years was applied with effect from the date of possession, without having regard to the time spent in building up and terracing the fields, as well as in constructing long and difficult kuhls before bringing the land under cultivation. Thus the people had to pay the full assessment for a long time, before the land was actually brought under cultivation. Moreover, the Chaks were assessed at unusually high rates, and the Chakdars had also to pay for the trees standing on the land thus granted.

Notwithstanding these drawbacks and discouraging features of the proceedings 5639 acres of land assessed at Rs. 7387 were taken up under Regulation No. 6, and this has contributed to a large increase in cultivation. The Settlement Commissioner in his letter No. 7579, dated the 3rd October 1910, to the Revenue Minister, proposed that:—

(i) New cultivation of shamlat and Khalsa lands, not reserved for the general benefit of the village or the public, should be permitted without assessment to assamis and cultivators within the line of their village as measured, similar right being taken to have been conferred as regards uncultivated land included in their own holdings.

(ii) For cultivation outside the line zamindars might be required to obtain the permission of the Wazir; the procedure to be the presentation of an unstamped petition to the Tahsildar or the Wazir Wazarat. The Tahsildar should satisfy himself that there was no reasonable objection, that the land was not required for any common or public purpose, and that it was not unfit for cultivation, owing to its being situated within a forest, or bearing a considerable number of trees, or for any other reason. On his report to that effect permission should be given by the Wazir to break up the land without assessment. The procedure should be as expeditious as possible; and the Settlement Commissioner thought that measurement of the land before grant of permission would not be found necessary, though it would have to be seen how that worked in practice.

The Settlement Commissioner added that the procedure suggested above should apply only to the assamis and cultivators of the nearest villages in either direction, in case of dispute arising between two villages or the land being obviously unconnected with the applicant's village, he should be referred to a regular application under Regulation No. 6, and outsiders not belonging to the neighbouring village should in any case be required to apply under that Regulation.

The above proposals were sanctioned in May 1912, but it is regrettable that they were not carried out until 1915 i.e., during the currency of Settlement operations in the District.

Nautors since Settlement besides Chaks are shown in the table below:—

Soils.	DETAILS (ACRES).			
	1st. circle.	2nd. circle.	3rd. circle.	Tahsil.
Paji	39	29	51	119
Bruin	4	...	...	4
Awaji	172	109	162	443
Shini ... ... ...	...	1	...	1
Das	229	43	58	330
Kharkat	62	60	3	125
Niral	16	51	...	67
Ishpati	52	84	4	140
Bagh	24	8	...	32
Total	598	385	278	1261

It would be seen that Awaji and Das claim a considerable portion of the increase. Next comes Ishpati, of which the fodder is much valued. Bagh is a Banjar Kadim, the increase under it shows that people grow more fruit now.

Land fallen out of cultivation.

36. Land fallen out of cultivation since Settlement is given below :

										Acres
	1st Circle									209
	2nd Circle									169
	3rd Circle									45
									Total	423

Decrease is due chiefly to accurate measurements and *Minhai*, as also to some area having gone out of cultivation.

Changes in soils.

37. The variations that took place in areas of the different soils since Settlement are given in the following statement :—

Circle	Details	CULTIVATED AREA.									
		Paji	Bruin.	Awaji.	Shini.	Das.	Kharkat.	Niral.	Ishpati.	Bagh.	Total cultivated.
Settlement	1419	216	2902	9	44	...	128	10	127		4855
Percentage	29.2	4.5	59.8	2	9	...	2.6	2	2.6	100	
Now	1210	75	2204	21	1570	367	212	297	127	6128	
Percentage	19.7	1.2	36.0	3	25.6	6.0	3.5	4.9	2.8	100	
Settlement	1465	...	2277	7	...	...	18	...	128	3895	
Percentage	37.6	...	58.4	2	...	...	5	...	3.3	100	
Now	1099	...	2385	16	605	168	456	263	136	5128	
Percentage	21.4	...	46.6	3	11.8	3.2	8.9	5.1	2.7	100	
Settlement	413	...	616	...	2	...	13	8	4	1056	
Percentage	39.1	...	58.3	...	2	...	1.2	.8	.4	100	
Now	426	...	1094	2	276	12	26	54	2	1892	
Percentage	22.5	...	57.8	1	14.6	6	1.4	2.9	1	100	
Settlement	3297	216	5795	16	46	...	159	18	259	9866	
Percentage	33.6	2.2	59.1	2	5	...	1.6	1.1	2.6	100	
Now	2735	75	5683	39	2451	547	694	614	310	13148	
Percentage	20.8	6	43.2	3	18.6	4.2	5.3	4.7	2.3	100	

It may be noted that in the figures given against "Settlement" the Jagir villages are not included, but the figures now given do include them. Notwithstanding this, there has been decrease of 14.7 per cent. and 24.1 per cent. respectively in Paji and Awaji of the 1st Circle, and 25 per cent. in Paji of the 2nd Circle which is due to the altered definition of the soils (para 34), as well as to more correct measurements made now. Bruin has diminished by 65 per cent. in the 1st Circle, as the lands which produce Shali only in certain years have been classified as Paji and Awaji according to their nature, while only the soils producing Shali almost every year have been classed now as Bruin.

Ishpati "Rishka," the only fodder crop, is highly valued, and its cultivation has extended to meet the increased requirements of the people.

A glance at the table will show that "Das" and "Kharkat" which were not distinguished from Abi of last Settlement have formed not an inconsiderable part of the cultivation.

38. The Table below shows the area not liable to assessments, being Area excluded from under the various departments of the State and the Imperial Government.

Departments.	1st. CIRCLE		2nd. CIRCLE		3rd. CIRCLE		TAHIL	
	Cultivated.	Un-culti- vated.	Cultivated.	Un-culti- vated.	Cultivated.	Un-culti- vated.	Cultivated.	Un-culti- vated.
Political Agency ...	17	5	...	1	...	...	17	6
Supply and Transport ...	82	31	...	1	*	*	82	32
Postal and Telegraph ...	2	1	1	...	*	*	3	1
Military ...	82	963	6	109	*	*	88	1072
Hospital and Veterinary	11	4	*	*	*	...	11	4
Public Works Depart- ment ...	11	62	*	45	*	30	11	137
Revenue ...	9	34	3	37	*	...	12	71
Education ...	...	2	*	...	...	...	...	2
Dharam-Arth ...	1	*	...	...	...	...	1	...
Jail and Police ...	4	2	...	...	...	...	4	2
Total ...	219	1104	10	193	...	30	229	1327

* Below one acre.

39. In regions like Gilgit which are considered as rainless, plant life cannot flourish without irrigation, which is indispensable for production of rich crops. Hill torrents are naturally numerous, and cultivation lies mostly along these torrents, which invariably supply irrigation, only a few estates being dependent on springs. Many of the water courses are carried for miles across the face of perpendicular cliffs and along the ridges of the mountains. Such water courses are often washed away by the action of the streams or by avalanches. The laborious and expensive work of repairs to these water courses and the upkeep of the wooden troughs is, therefore, no easy matter for the small villages in this part of the country.

Large tracts of arable waste are found in the Gilgit, the Indus, and the Astore valleys, but they cannot be cultivated for want of irrigation, the river beds being too low to be utilized for purposes of irrigation.

Almost all the lands, where irrigation is easy, have been brought under plough, and the poorer irrigable lands are also being taken up as population increases. The pressure of population on cultivation is 1000.7 souls in Gilgit and 1278.3 souls in Astore per square mile cultivated, and the produce is hardly enough for the good supply of the inhabitants and the troops. As the population is increasing fast, it is of vital importance to devise some means for extension of cultivation. Good wastes, which can be brought under cultivation easily, are not numerous now. The District, however, has some large wastes, where water can be brought for irrigation from great distances. This is too much for the people to do unaided. The local officers should, therefore, turn their energies to making and improving water channels, which would bring thousands of acres of waste land under the plough, and would prove of inestimable value to the people as well as to the State.

1. The Public Works Department undertook and completed the construction of Safed pari and Chakarkot maidan kuhl at a cost of Pari and Chakarkot maidan kuhl. about Rs. 32000. The work was no doubt very difficult to be handled by any but a qualified Engineer. The Pari waste land measuring about 1320 acres lies along the Gilgit-Bandipur road nearly midway between Bunji and Gilgit, whilst the Chakarkot plateau of fairly level land measuring about 389 acres is situated on the left side of the Sai nalla, not far from the Chakarkot village. The kuhl, which has been constructed to irrigate these two arid tracts, takes its origin from the Sai nalla at a point about four miles above the Jagot village. The nalla has a permanent source of water supply from the big glacier. The quantity of water is plentiful and free from sand and clay, which are considered to be injurious both to the health of the people and the quality of soil.

The kuhl stretches along the slope of the hill range for about 5 miles, crosses it through a natural pass, called "Galli" about 2000 feet above the level of the Pari plain, and branches off to a distance of about 2 miles towards Chakarkot maidan. The Chakarkot branch also goes along the slope of the hill, while the main kuhl drops down in a nalla whence it is taken for a short distance along the hill over easy ground to reach another nalla. It then runs along the

bottom of the hill and tails in a small waterless nalla opposite Pari bungalow which is $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles off from Galli. Thus the total length of the ma' kuhl is $10\frac{1}{2}$ miles only,

The Revenue Department took over charge of the kuhl on 24 June 1914, from the Public Works Department. It was in running order for the Chakarkot maidan the following year. The maximum discharge of the kuhl is $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet, but the banks of the kuhl being new and leaky, water can hardly be discharged more than 2 feet at present at the head. So far half of the water is lost before it reaches the "Galli", and the volume is still further reduced to about 5 inches, before it gets into the Chakarkot maidan.

It is not certain as to when the maximum discharge will be run. But as long as the leakages in bed and along the banks of the kuhl are not remedied and the bed of the kuhl has not soaked enough water, the maximum discharge will be quite insufficient to irrigate even the whole land of the Chakarkot maidan, not to speak of any surplus water to be taken to Pari bungalow. Under the circumstances there is little likelihood of seeing the canal running in full swing ere long in the parched tract of Pari Maidan, where even drinking water is now obtained with great difficulty, and the travellers are hard up for it during the long summer months. I think, it would have been far better to defer the construction of the kuhl beyond "Galli" until the whole of Chakarkot maidan was watered in the first instance and the kuhl tested in those parts, because it is not certain yet as to whether the kuhl will ever be able to support the flow of water sufficient for irrigation of both the maidans. The greater part of the money appears to have been spent on the long section from "Galli" to the point of tail, long before it was required. I believe more money will be needed for repairs in this section, when the time comes for running full quantity of water into it.

Out of the annual grant of Rs. 1500, sanctioned for its maintenance, a gang of coolies headed by a Mate is employed to look after the kuhl, and execute necessary repairs to it whenever and wherever required. Their chief duty is to prevent the occasional leakages, and plant trees and grass along the banks, so that they may be strengthened to support full flow of water.

2. There are many other pieces of land lying waste here, which can only be brought under cultivation with the State help. I give below the details of the projects that are feasible with a fair outlay of capital.

(1) The Darbar has sanctioned the proposal of taking a kuhl from the Gilgit river left Bank river to have its head near Hanzal, a village about 8 miles off from Gilgit. The kuhl will be carried along the lower slope of the hill, on the left side of the river, and is supposed to irrigate about 1000 acres of reclaimable waste land as detailed below :—

- (a) 200 acres opposite Gilgit.
- (b) 800 acres a little below the extreme end of the kuhl.

The natural boundary between the 2 patches of land is the sandy waste, where the distance between the river and the hill is the shortest. Of these (a) will be disposed of at the discretion of the Wazir Wazarat, and (b) is proposed to be made over to the Mir of Hunza under certain conditions. The Mir will get the area colonized by people from Hunza, where the population is dense, and there is no scope for extension of cultivation. The kuhl has been surveyed and estimates sanctioned. The project, if successful, would increase the grain produce of the District, which would contribute to supplying more than half the quantity of rations to the troops stationed here.

(2.) Janglot is a village situated on the Indus river just opposite Bunji.

Janglot maidan. Its cultivated area is more than the requirements of the villagers, and some Yagistanis immigrated there a few years ago.

A big piece of land is also held by the Military Department to grow Rishka grass there. There is still an extensive piece of land lying to the north east of the village, and the Riskha farms may be extended thereto, should the necessity for such a contingency arise for the establishment of a dairy at Bunji, where the question of milk supply to the Military Department is at present engaging the attention of the revenue authorities. To bring the waste under cultivation will require extension of irrigation, which can be done by widening the present kuhl of the Janglot village. This does not appear to involve any considerable amount of expenditure. Water is ample in the Sai nalla, both for the present requirements of the villages concerned, and for the irrigation of the waste in question, where the ground is good and level.

(3.) A large tract of waste land is lying between Bunji and Ram-Ghat,

Ram-Ghat kuhl. and along the left bank of the Indus river. It can be brought under cultivation by means of a water course from

Dashket nalla, which has a permanent source of water supply. In March 1912 the Public Works Department formulated the scheme, which is now under consideration of the Wazir Wazarat.

(4.) Doian is a village situated on the Gilgit and Bandipur road. It is

Doian kuhl. connected with Leycher, (Chilas road) and Bunji (Gilgit road) on the one side and Dashkin and Astore on the other.

The extension of irrigation in Doian has been under contemplation for a very long time, but nothing appears to have been done so far. It is considered to be an important stage on the road, and any improvements in cultivation here would mean facilities in procuring supplies and transport at such an inhospitable place. The present source of irrigation from the Doian nalla is quite insufficient to meet the requirements of the present cultivation. Cultivation has, however, increased from 45 acres at Settlement to 105 acres measured now, which appears to be due to corresponding increase in population.

The people entertained a hope that their water supply would be considerably increased by a kuhl proposed to be taken from Leycher nalla at State expense. But the scheme was found financially unsound, and was, therefore, dropped finally, (*vide* letter No. 793 of 23rd February, 1915, from the Divisional Engineer to the Wazir Wazarat, Gilgit). The zamindars of Doian, however, stand badly in need of more water. An alternate scheme for the construction

of a kuhl from the Mushkin Nalla is now under consideration of the Wazir Wazarat. The project seems feasible, and may be undertaken after ascertaining the following facts :—

- (a) The discharge of Mushkin nalla at various seasons.
- (b) Whether such a discharge would meet the requirements of the Doian and Mushkin cultivated areas.
- (5.) About 50 acres of culturable waste lie along the right bank of the Bat null. Astore river. This piece of land is opposite Harcho at a rather high level from the river bed. Its right of possession is disputed by Dashkin, Harcho and Los villages. It will most, probably, be brought under cultivation as soon as the dispute is settled. No application has yet been filed by any of the villagers.
- (6.) A long kuhl from the Leycher nalla was taken along the hill situated Lashkam kuhl. on the south of the Dashkin village with a view to add to the main supply of irrigation received from the Dashkin nalla, which does not hold sufficient water at various seasons for irrigation of the whole of the village cultivation. This kuhl being unsafe is liable to occasional breakages, and the crops of Dashkin and Khudkisht-Dashkin often suffer on this account. The villages concerned need another kuhl from Lashkam nalla, which after passing through the Harcho cultivation falls into the Astore river. A good deal of labour and money will doubtless be required to construct this kuhl, as the work is mostly of a rocky character. The project, if carried out, may, however, result in a gain to the State as well as to the people, because large culturable wastes lying in both the villages will in all probability be turned into cultivation. The matter is under consideration of the Wazir Wazarat.
- (7.) The head of the kuhl is located in a place covered with perpetual snow, on the Kani-Bari range to the right side of the Astore river. The kuhl is liable to break and leak from time to time, and has deep ravines lying below its right banks. It is hemmed in by a soft hill on the left, which can be improved easily. But the part of the kuhl, from the source to a point where it leaves the gorge, is very cold, and remains covered with snow till advent of the summer season. The rabi crops growing on lands comparatively at a very low altitude wither for want of irrigation. The zamindars have, therefore, to clear the kuhl in the spring at the expense of considerable labour. Kani Das, a Mohalla of Gurikot, is situated on the right bank of the Astore river, and depends entirely for its irrigation on the kuhl. Some of the high lands of Naugam village remain uncultivated in years, when the kuhl does not supply sufficient water. The holders of both the lands are responsible for the upkeep of the kuhl. The people of Naugam do not depend solely upon this kuhl. In Sambat 1972 they did not help the zamindars of Kani Das in repairing the kuhl, and the result was the total failure of Rabi crops in Kani Das. As a matter of relief their revenue in kind was allowed to be paid in cash. The people believe that if the upper and colder parts of the kuhl are widened and roofed over with planks at State expense, the flow of water would continue in winter, and large wastes would be brought under cultivation. The upper course of the kuhl as

measured roughly by me is 2300 yards in length, which remains covered with snow for several months. The only remedy seems to have it roofed over as suggested above. The cost would not in my opinion exceed Rs. 3,000. The project is worth consideration from the point of view of the extent and quality of land, which would be irrigated in the event of the proposal being carried out.

(8.) A fine and extensive swardy plot of culturable waste land locally called

Goshat plot.

"Goshat" lies in the upper part of the Kamri valley about

4 miles below the Kala-Pani stage. It grows grass luxuri-

antly. Bakarwals haunt the place in summer, and pass greater part of the sea-
son there. They object to the land being turned into cultivation, but as it is
considered desirable to prohibit these rude nomads from entering into the limits
of the Gilgit District, their objections seem to carry no weight. The neighbouring
zamindars of Shankar Garh have applied for grant of land there under Re-
gulation No. 6. The case is pending in the Settlement Department, and it is
hoped that the land will soon be brought under plough. The kuhl may be taken
from the nalla, which flows from east to west into the Kamri and passes through
the Goshat land. The zamindars want tools and powder for blasting the hard
rock over which the kuhl is to pass at places. It may be noted that Goshat,
when turned into cultivation, would form a separate estate near the stage of
Kala-Pani. The people of that part of the valley would be relieved of much of
the troubles they experience at present in procuring supplies for the travellers at
the Kala-Pani stage, which is far from their habitations.

(9.) A long kuhl has been taken off along the foot of a hill from the nalla.

Rampur kuhl.

The kuhl has been roofed over at places as a protection

against avalanches. The water course is long but irrigation

is hardly sufficient for the present requirements. There is much scope for exten-
sion in cultivation, which can only be made practicable with more water by
widening the present kuhl, which the zamindars cannot do unaided. They can
hardly afford to maintain the kuhl.

(10.) The Zaipur water course was constructed in the time of Sardar

Zaipur.

Mohamad Akbar Khan, late Wazir Wazarat Gilgit. It re-

ceives water from the Tsitsi nalla and runs along its left
bank to the point where the nalla, after throwing its water into the Ruppal, turns
abruptly to the east. There the water of the kuhl crosses the nalla through a
wooden channel supported by logs of wood placed across each other and raised
up to the level of the kuhl. The site selected to make the kuhl cross here is not
suitable. The Ruppal nalla is going to damage the frail prop and undermine
the high retaining wall over which the kuhl runs. The wooden irrigation channel
has worn out, and the whole structure is liable to smash within a course of time.
The wooden channel may be moved down about two hundred yards further to
avert the danger of its present position. A still better course to put the water
course on a firm footing would, however be to replace the wooden structure by
a sort of suspension kuhl across the nalla. But this cannot be expected of the
poor villagers, and the water course is therefore, awaiting the assistance of
skilled labour. Such an improvement will bring considerable waste under
cultivation.

(11.) A large plot of high lying land, locally called "Harban," extends to the south of Sasi, an important village in the Haramosh Harban kuhl. ilaka. A kuhl to command this area was constructed there in the time of late Sardar Mohamad Akbar Khan. But the head of the kuhl was located at a very high altitude and, therefore, remains covered with snow for about 5 months of the year. The zamindars responsible for the upkeep of the kuhl experience considerable trouble in repairing occasional breakages near the head, which are caused by earth and stones falling from the hill above. The portion of the Harban plateau now under cultivation is dependent for its irrigation on this kuhl. It would probably be deserted by the zamindars in the near future, if the kuhl remained in its present condition. The land holders cannot get water even for drinking purposes from this kuhl during the winter months, and most of them, therefore, resort to their houses in the lower abadi, when the winter sets in. The three families living permanently in Harban have to go to Sasi to take water for drinking purposes by travelling through a very troublesome and difficult passage. I inspected the kuhl on 21st. Baisakh 1972, and found the head still buried under snow and earth. The kuhl has not been repaired at places where it had broken during the preceding winter. The Rabi crops had flourished, but stood badly in need of irrigation. The zamindars showed me another site for the head of the kuhl, which is below its present head, at a place where the waters of two branches of the nalla running along the hill meet together. There waters do not cease to run in winter. The kuhl taken from this place will pass some distance along the rock, cutting of which is beyond the means of the people. They are ready to construct the remaining part of kuhl to the point where it will join the old kuhl. I sent my note on the subject to the Wazir Wazarat in Baisakh 1972, which, I understand, is receiving his attention.

(12.) A large tract of level waste lies a little below Datse village along the right bank of the Datse nalla, at the foot of a hill intervening between this tract and the Khaltare village. A water course may be taken off from the Khaltare nalla at a point about three miles above the village site. It may be excavated along the slopes of the hill on the left of the nalla, up to the point where the kuhl may cross the hill to flow immediately down into the tract mentioned above. The kuhl while passing along and upon the hill may irrigate more pieces of good land which may yield one good crop in the year. The project, though it seems difficult and expensive at first sight, may not be lost sight of.

(13.) A tract of the land also lies along the left bank of the Datse nalla, a tributary of the Indus. It extends north from the Datse Das in Datse. village site to the place where Barche stream falls into the Datse nalla. The land is fairly level and of good quality. It can be irrigated by means of a water course, which may be taken from the Barche nalla at a distance of about 3 miles. Out of the total length of the proposed water course nearly half a mile is a hard rock requiring blasting. The zamindars are willing to take upon themselves the responsibility of constructing the remaining part of the kuhl. The project seems feasible and is worth consideration.

(14.) The fertile land called "Kotwal" is about 12 miles from Datse.

Kotwal. It is situated between the two branches of the Barche nulla in its upper course.

The land appears to have been under cultivation in times of yore. The plot is a compact piece of level ground of very good quality, though very cold on account of its high altitude. The irrigation channel here may be taken off from the Barche nulla without any difficulty. The forest growth is rich and the pasture is plentiful here. The land has not been turned into cultivation owing to the dispute about its possession having arisen between the zamindars of Barche and Datse. The file of the case is pending consideration with me.

There are a number of good plots of land in the Haramosh and Astore ilakas, which have not been brought under cultivation as the neighbouring zamindars do not care to take them up, probably because they do not stand in need of more land than already in their possession. With a view to retain such grounds as grazing preserves they do not allow foreigners even to settle there. These tracts are being gradually brought under plough as the population increases. If, however, the local officers ever think it desirable to let the foreigners settle here, certain plots of land available in the villages of Datse and Khaltare in Haramosh, Darot, Harcho, Parishing, and Gotam-Sar may with advantage be taken up for cultivation.

Before concluding it may be remarked that as a result of mature consideration, supplemented by the suggestions of the late Resident in Kashmir (Hon'ble Mr. S. M. Fraser, C.S.I., C.I.E.,) the services of a qualified Overseer for necessary improvements and repairs to the kuhls of the District have of late been engaged at a considerable annual expenditure. The budget for 1973 provides Rs. 1415 under this head for the pay of the Overseer, one Khalasi, and Contingencies &c.

It is surprising to see that in addition to the Annual repairs grant of Rs. 1,500 for Chakarkot-Pari kuhl, a separate provision of Rs. 800 only for annual repairs to the kuhls of the district is being made in the Revenue Budget for some years past. In the year 1973 this small provision has been taken to include even the pay of the Governor's work-charge Khalasi and his local allowances, so that it has, in a way, been further curtailed by over Rs. 100 p. a. I am of opinion that if money were utilised to the best advantage this provision of Rs. 800 appears to be too small, and may with advantage be enhanced in proportion to the grant under establishment charges, otherwise little useful work could be expected of the Overseer. Great improvements in irrigation can be effected by a little more attention on the part of the Revenue Officers, now assisted by a qualified Overseer, who may be called upon to submit his proposals from time to time, and his services can thus be availed of in the best possible way.

40. It may not be quite uninteresting to know that the question of milk supply to the troops and other officials here which has been engaging the attention of the authorities for some time past, is in a way bound up with the question of irrigation projects of the district. The present arrangements for supply of milk by the zamindars at a fixed rate under

orders of the civil officers are far from satisfactory, and call for improvements. The system heavily tells upon the supplier zamindars, who have been feeling it as no small hardship and burden upon them, in as much as they are required to supply milk by way of Begar under most pressing circumstances. Moreover, the quantity of milk available in the ilakas is hardly sufficient to meet the total demand, and the consequence is that as often as not, the officials and troops have to do without milk in winter. In Gilgit the Tehsildar has to keep all his chowkidars engaged on the supply of milk at that time of the year. The late Resident in Kashmir, Hon'ble Mr. S. M. Fraser, C. S. I., C. I. E., during his tour in this Agency in September 1913 made a note to this effect, and as a solution of this difficulty he suggested that dairy farms might be established at Gilgit and Bunji. He ultimately expressed an opinion however, that the point should be borne in mind at the time of reassessment of the district.

The matter has been under my consideration ever since the revision of settlement of this district was taken up. My findings are that the idea expressed by the Resident in Kashmir was excellent one, and the establishment of a dairy farm even in this out of the way tract is not an impossibility. I submit my proposal on the subject as follows :—

- (i) A large area of land measuring about 250 acres is lying uncultivated to the south of Basin, a Jagir village situate at a distance of about 4 miles from Gilgit. I inspected this spot which is locally called "Kotidas" and found that the soil was of good quality containing reddish clay free from sand and stones. It can be irrigated from the Kargah nullah by a kuhl carried from a place about 400 yards above the head of the present Basin kuhl. The cost of this new project, as estimated by the zamindars, would not exceed Rs. 6,000/- and the kuhl when constructed will, it is believed, be able to command the whole of the Kotidas area. It can produce all kinds of grains and grass and can support about 100 cows, which, I think, should be quite sufficient for the requirements of milk and butter for the troops and other officers in Gilgit. If, however, it may be considered inconvenient to manage the whole area officially, the alternate proposal would be to reserve only 50 acres of this area for purposes of grazing, and allot the rest to the zamindars of Gilgit and Naupur for cultivation on half batai system including Bhusa, fodder etc. The rent in kind thus realised will also be utilized on feeding cows and should be sufficient.
- (ii) If the above proposal be considered financially unsound or prohibitive, there is another one, which does not require any large outlay of expenditure. At the mouth of the Jutial nalla, an area extending to hundreds of acres lies waste on both sides of it from the foot of the hill to the banks of the Gilgit river. Selected plots of this area can be brought under cultivation at no great trouble. It may be noted, however, that only

Kharif crops can be raised from this area, as the quantity of water in the nalla decreases in the sowing season of Rabi crop, when it is hardly sufficient to irrigate the lands of Kholmar and Jutial villages. It is only after the 15th. Baisakh, when snow begins to melt, that surplus water is allowed to run waste into the river for 5 months up till middle of Assuj. This quantity of water should, I believe, be able to irrigate sufficient area of land. To begin with ordinary grass seed may once be sown which would give crop every year. The Military garden, which is a part of the said area, is giving such a crop of grass for a number of years, and the trees planted there have also flourished satisfactorily. During my stay in the Jutial buildings for the last 2 years I have got a few marlas of this area cultivated experimentally, in which wheat, giram, mash and maize have been grown in addition to vegetables, and I have found that, compared with such lands of the adjoining villages of Jutial and Khomar as are not manured, the output of crops from this area is in no way less than that of those villages. I need hardly say that such a waste in Baltistan would not have been allowed to lie uncultivated for such a long time. But the circumstances here seem to be different. The zamindars of Jutial and Khomar already possess sufficient area for their requirements, and do not care to cultivate more. In course of time this area can support a large number of cows for the establishment of a dairy farm in Gilgit.

In the event of either of the above measures proving successful for the requirements of a dairy farm in Gilgit, similar measures can be taken in Bunji by widening the present Janglot kuhl, and bringing the large piece of land lying to the north east of Janglot village under cultivation for the maintenance of cows for starting a dairy farm at Bunji (*vide* project No. 2 above.)

41. The table below shows the population of Gilgit and Astore, enumerated in 1972 simultaneously with the measurements, the non agricultural classes having not been taken into account :—

District.	Population.	Cultivated area (acres).	PRESSURE ON CULTIVATION.	
			Per acre cultivated.	Per square mile cultivated.
Gilgit	13476	8618	1.56	1000.8
Astore	9048	4530	2	1278.3
Total	22524	13148	1.71	1096.4

These figures show that the pressure of population on the cultivated area in Astore is greater than it is in Gilgit.

The density and increase of population may be seen from the following table :—

Details.	Population	Cultivated	PRESSURE OF POPULATION.				INCREASE PER CENT.	
			Per acre.		Per square mile.			
			Cultivated	Cropped.	Cultivated	Cropped.		
1st circle	1950	5148	4530	...	1.14	727.31	... ... ... ...
	1972	8110	5600	6167	1.45	926.86		
2nd circle	1950	5622	3895	...	1.44	923.77	... ... ... ...
	1972	9746	5012	4712	1.94	1244.50		
3rd circle	1950	1231	997	...	1.23	790.21	... ... ... ...
	1972	3187	1702	1591	1.87	1198.46		
Total	1950	12001	9422	...	1.27	815.18	... ... ... ...
	1972	21043	12314	12470	1.71	1079.99		
Skardu	...	...	...	...	...	1718.30	... ... ... ...
Kargil	...	...	...	...	...	1512.00	... ... ...
Adakha	...	...	...	...	...	1072.00	... ... ...

The tract under report is not so densely populated as the adjoining Tahsil of Skardu, where the people are more prolific. Per square mile of cultivation this tract has 21 souls more than Ladakh, and 625 and 419 souls less than Skardu and Kargil Tahsils respectively. There are 1.71 men per acre of cultivation and 1.69 men for each acre of crops.

The country has been amply secure during the period of expiring Settlement. The occurrence of famine or the prevalence of destructive epidemics, which elsewhere take away large portion of the population, are unknown here. The peaceful state of things has created a sense of security among the people, conduced somewhat to their prosperity and induced them to cleave to their homes and holdings. Many people, who had deserted their country long before Settlement, have returned to the land of their birth.

The increase in population may be said to be partly due to immigration from the the insecure Yagistan, and from the densely populated neighbouring districts. Some increase may also be attributed to correct enumeration during the present settlement, which, in the real sense, may not be an increase over the figures of the last settlement.

NOTE.—The population of the Haramosh ilaka and the Jagir villages has not been taken into account in discussing the rise in population as the figures of population of 1951 for these estates are not available. Their present population is noted below:—

	Name.	Male.	Female.	Children.	Total.
HARAMOSH.	Datse ...	10	107	204	421
	Sasi ...	40	34	57	131
	Hanuchal	43	41	97	181
	Khaltare	41	40	46	127
JAGIR VILLAGES.	Basin ...	26	21	45	92
	Harcho	44	46	136	226
	Das-Khirim	80	82	141	303
	Rattu ...	31	38	52	121

42. The present religion of the whole district is one or other form of Mohammadanism. From Kashmir, Sunni Mullahs brought their tenets up the different valleys, where they introduced them with more or less success. From eastward a current of Shia doctrines set in from Skardu. The population as enumerated at last Census was Sunnis 11,987, and Shias 11,088. Both the communities are found living together amicably, and seem to forget their difference by mutual toleration, but intermarriage amongst them is not common yet.

Tribes of assamis.

The table below shows the tribes of the Malguzars, the cultivation under them, and the revenue they are responsible for:

Details.	1ST CIRCLE.			2ND CIRCLE.			3RD. CIRCLE.			TOTAL.		
	Cultivation.	Revenue.	Percentage of Revenue.	Cultivation.	Revenue.	Percentage of Revenue.	Cultivation.	Revenue.	Percentage of Revenue.	Cultivation.	Revenue.	Percentage of Revenue.
Rajas	42	27.3	4.4	317	2.9	27	196	3.8	226	1.9	9	1.39
Ronis	56	11.9	1.9	291	2.7	5	6	1.1	17	1	74	1.28
Shins	465	936	15.3	1454	13.4	347	695	13.6	1796	14.8	105	1.63
Yesh Kuns	1501	3272	53.4	6022	55.4	1625	3067	59.8	7579	62.5	300	672
Kamins	112	218	3.6	207	2.5	69	287	5.6	330	2.7	...	...
Daram Khels	1	1	...	2	...	56	132	2.6	359	3.0	65	1.87
Pathans	39	48	8	87	8	21	44	9	88	7	1	1
Sayed Pirzadas	86	80	1.3	149	1.4	26	49	1.0	117	1.0	2	3
Kashminis	264	410	6.7	800	7.4	130	223	4.3	708	5.8	122	266
Gujars	9	13	2	14	1	19	28	5	43	3	49	102
Baltis	14	15	2	19	2	14	26	5	71	6	63	145
Zargars	208	140	2.3	337	3.1	8	10	2	36	3	...	...
Dooms	62	146	2.4	298	2.7	33	238	4.6	519	4.3	34	39
Others	129	457	7.5	867	7.4	68	127	2.5	240	2.0	26	45
Talsil ¹	2979	6128	100	10864	100	2548	5128	100	12129	100	850	1802
											100	3641
											100	6377
											100	26634
											100	100

¹ Rajas consists of Moghals, Manghols, and Makleens.

The settled population of Gilgit district, which is generally mixed, is 22524 persons.

Rajas are now land holders. Ronus were formerly the most honored caste amongst the people. From amongst them the Wazirs of the Rajas were generally chosen. They are still held in respect and rank next to Rajas. Their number is, however, small.

Next to Ronus come the Shins, below whom are the Yeshkuns ; Kamins and Dums standing last in order of their social status. One of the distinguishing features of these three high castes is that they give their daughters in marriage generally to the one above themselves, and not to the lower ones.

The Shins, it appears, were once the rulers of the country, when they introduced their own dialect called "Shina," wherever they penetrated. They are not, however, numerically superior. It is said that they were Hindus before their conversion to Islam. Such of them as emigrated to Baltistan are called there "Brukpas" (highlanders) by the "Baltis." They are not very enterprising. Physically, however, they are well built, and are attached to their lands, being averse to other manual labour. Formerly it is said, they did not eat beef, drink cow's milk or even touch a vessel containing it. These feelings have, however, practically died out now, but it sometimes happens that a Shin would make over his cow and calf to a Yeshkus neighbour to be restored to him when the calf is weaned. They regarded the domestic fowls also as unclean, and in villages chiefly inhabited by the Shins fowls were rarely seen.

Next in order of social position, and the most numerous caste, is that of Yeshkuns. They take to manual labour and carrying of loads as well. They do not arrogate any superiority over their neighbours.

Living among the Shins and Yeshkuns in varying numbers are Sayeds and Pirzadas, Kamins, Dums, and Kashmiris. All of them are inferior in position except Sayeds, who are held in great esteem, receive girls in marriage from Rajas and Ronus without reciprocity, for a Sayed's daughter is always married to a Sayed only. These various sects are scattered all over the district in small numbers. Kamins are also not very large in number. They do not intermarry with any other castes. Formerly they were treated like Kamins of the Punjab, but as land holders they no longer look upon themselves as inferior to other sects. The Dums, whose number is also limited, work as musicians, blacksmiths and leather tanners. Kashmiris form a fairly large section of the population. Their forefathers settled in the country long before its conquest by the Dogras, but they have not lost their characteristic shrewdness, which is the distinct feature of an ordinary Kashmiri.

The Gujars are met with on the high lands, where the pastures are extensive. They mix very little with the people of the country, live in roughly made hovels, and cultivate small and poor patches of land. Some of them inhabit the upper part of the Sai valley, while others have found their way into the Kargah and Naltar villages. They all speak the Panjabidialect, which is popular with their caste. Daram Khels, Pathans, Baltis, and Zargars (Goldsmiths), are immigrants and call for no remarks. The Baltis having inter-married with Yeshkuns call themselves "Yeshkun" now. Daram Khels have come here from Gurez.

The people are generally peaceful. Cases of murders are very rare among them, and wherever they are they are almost invariably the result of a dispute over a woman. In disposition they are tractable and merry making, neither cruel nor quarrelsome, and readily submit to constituted authority. They grow more crops and fruits since settlement, and tend larger flocks than they did before.

The standard of comfort has gone somewhat higher since settlement, as the people are now more secure.

While on this subject I may particularly invite the attention of the authorities to some resident Kashmiris of Gilgit proper, who are bent upon making mischief every now and then. They find pleasure in creating factious feelings amongst certain simpletons of this place, whom they are always preparing for fruitless litigation against one another. They are very troublesome to the local authorities, and the sooner they are got rid of, the better. I think no amount of drastic measures would do to make them mend their ways, unless they are made to leave this place for good, and this alone can restore normal conditions in Gilgit.

43. The table below compares the size of holdings of the last and present settlements :—

Size of holdings.	Circle.	Detail.	Holdings.	Cultivation in acres.	Average per holding in acres.
1st ...	Settlement	... { Total ...	1450	4855	3.3
		... { Khudkasht...	1161	4596	4.0
	Now	... { Total ...	2969	6128	2.1
		... { Khudkasht...	2338	5617	2.4
2nd ...	Settlement	... { Total ...	1128	3895	3.5
		... { Khudkasht...	917	3264	3.6
	Now	... { Total ...	2340	5128	2.2
		... { Khudkasht...	1839	4655	2.5
3rd ...	Settlement	... { Total ...	224	1056	4.7
		... { Khudkasht ...	187	903	4.8
	Now	... { Total ...	1004	1892	1.9
		... { Khudkasht...	666	1514	2.3
Total ...	Settlement	... { Total ...	2802	9806	3.5
		... { Khudkasht...	2265	8763	3.9
	Now	... { Total ...	6313	13148	2.1
		... { Rhudkasht...	4843	11786	2.4

The increase by 125·3 % in the total and 113·8 % in the Khudkasht holdings since the last settlement is due chiefly to :—

(i) Partitions,

(ii) The inclusion of the Jagir villages in the present assessable areas, and

(iii) Nautors.

The average cultivation per holding was 3·5 acres at settlement against 2·1 now, and the average per Khudkasht holding was 3·9 acres at settlement against 2·4 now. The averages of last settlement would not have been so high if the pieces of waste lands mixed with and shown as cultivation had been distinguished as it is done now. But there is no doubt that the pressure of population is increasing faster than cultivation. The holdings in the third class villages are miserably small, where the people cannot solely depend on them, while population in most of the warm estates of the 1st and 2nd class villages is not so pressing. It is remarkable that the average per holding in Skardu is 1 acre.

44. Transfers by sale and mortgages were prohibited under Resolution No. 48 dated 30th December 1898, and those by gifts are too few and unimportant to call for any notice. It may, however, be said with some confidence that land is more valued now, in as much as the people who abandoned or transferred their lands before Settlement have been found to be eager to get back the same by institution of suits or otherwise.

The table below shows the details of the unsecured debt :—

Assessment Circle.	Details.	Per acre of Cultivation.	Per head of population excluding non-agriculturists.	Total amount of debts.
1st. Circle	Cash ...	Rs. 5 6 10	Rs. 3 11 7	Rs. 33257
	Kind ...	7 seers	5 seers	1142 Mds.
2nd. Circle	Cash ...	Rs. 6 14 0	Rs. 3 8 7	Rs. 35249
	Kind ...	18 seers	9 seers	2354 Mds.
3rd. Circle	Cash ...	Rs. 3 11 8	Rs. 1 15 3	Rs. 7056
	Kind ...	4 seers	2 seers	188 Mds.
Total	Cash ...	Rs. 5 11 11	Rs. 3 5 8	Rs. 75562
	Kind ...	11 seers	7 seers	3684 Mds.

It would appear that the unsecured debt is Rs. 5-11-11 per acre in cash and 11 seers in kind, but these figures should not be relied upon, based as they are on the statements of the zamindars who are apt to exaggerate their debts

with a view to show that they are too poor to pay any enhancement of revenue over and above what they do at present. Nor does the amount of the debt appear to be so oppressive on the tract under report. A greater part of it that the peasant borrows in winter is paid up in summer, when crops are harvested, and money is earned from other sources as well. The amount of debts thus remains within proper bounds, and there is no case for embarrassment on this account. Money borrowed on interest, payable in one form or other, cannot, however, be got rid of easily, as the rate of interest charged here is very high.

45. The orders passed by His Highness the Maharaja Sahib Bahadur
 Alienation of cultivating rights in connection with the prohibition of transfer of haq-kasht
 mustakal in the Ladakh District, (*vide* the Chief Minister's
 No. 3196, dated the 8th. August 1914 to the Revenue Minister), should also be
 applied to the tract under report.

46. The table below embodies the result of census of the last and present settlements :—
 Live-stock.



Ever since the last Settlement there has been an immense increase in the number of live-stock, which is mostly shared by the third class villages having rich and extensive pasture-lands. Accurate enumeration of cattle made during the present settlement accounts for this increase to a large extent.

Buffaloes are met with in the villages of Kargah, Gashu, Paitot, Damot, and Naltar and are owned by Gujars. The congenial climate of the first and second class villages is suitable for rearing cows, which are now held in less abhorrence than before by the people of Shin sect, who have since taken to the animal's milk and butter. In Gilgit some cows are imported from the Political ilakas of Yasin and Tangir, and in Astore from that of Kel in the Karnah Tahsil of Muzaffarabad district in Kashmir.

Owing to the decided improvements, made in the lines of communication, the transport animals have become a source of great income, and the people of Astore have since begun to keep more ponies than they used to do before. The sheep and goats are largely held in the second and third class villages, where the pastures are rich and extensive, whereas in the first class villages grass on the hill sides is scarce, but the winter there is not so long as to keep their live-stock confined to houses.

The number of ploughs has since settlement increased by 106.5 per cent. The average cultivation under each plough is 4.9 acres at present, against 7.8 acres at settlement. This shows that cultivation is better kept now than it was before. The oxen which are generally the plough cattle have not, however, kept pace with the increase of ploughs, as the small holdings cannot maintain the bullocks on fodder crops in most of the villages. Such being the case many poor people do not keep their own bullocks ; they are hired or borrowed when required for ploughing land etc.. The horses here are rarely yoked to the plough.

47. The domestic animals of the tract under report are ponies, donkeys,

Species of live-stock. bulls, cows, sheep and goats. They are mostly of local breed.

In Astore ponies are extensively reared. They are of the Kashmiri breed, of medium size but smart. Horses found in Gilgit are reared especially for Polo, and some of them are supplied from Yasin, Yarkand and Kashgar. Donkeys are found in fairly large number, almost all the internal carrying business is conducted by means of these animals. Zo and Zomos are seen only in Haramosh ilaka, and in Zila-Bala and Das-Khirim in Astore. They are generally used for ploughing purposes. The oxen are short in size, but strong enough for the light work of agriculture apportioned to them. Bovine cattle of the common breed are favourites of the peasantry and are consequently numerous. Gujars as everywhere are much devoted to the rearing of buffaloes. They hold assami rights in Gilgit, Gashu, Paitot, Kargah, and Naltar. Sheep are reared with zeal for the sake of the wool, as every one poor or rich is fond of wearing Chogas. But their number compared with that of goats is not so large as it is in Skardu where sheep are 3 to every 1 goat. The reason lies in the fact that the Baltis use the sheep milk, while the Gilgitis and Astoris do not. The goats of Gilgit are larger in size than those of Baltistan and are reared extensively for milking purposes. Tangir and its neighbouring valley, Darel, are

noted for their flocks and herds ; large numbers of sheep are reared there every year for sale to the inhabitants of Gilgit and other neighbouring valleys. The Astoris sometimes buy sheep and goats from the Rondu ilaka of the Skardu Tahsil.

48. It may be noted that from the year 1901-1904 a number of mares in this country were covered by horse and donkey stallions under the close supervision of the Veterinary Assistant, but the results obtained were far from satisfactory. A report of the Veterinary Assistant, dated February 3rd 1904, submitted by him to the Native Assistant to the Political Agent in this connection, shows that out of a total number of about 200 mares that were served by both the horse and donkey stallions during the period above specified, only 4 horses and 4 mules could be obtained from 8 mares. Such disappointing results were attributed to want of proper care on the part of the owners of the mares which were either covered before they felt inclined to be served, or even if covered in good time, no rest was allowed to the mares after service when they were taken for Polo and other hard riding as usual. The mares after having been served by the stallions were, it is said, also allowed to go to the jungle for grazing, where they mixed with other ordinary horses. This resulted in complete failure of the measures.

Although the zamindars had been warned to take more care and act upon the Veterinary Assistant's instructions given to them in this behalf, yet they turned deaf ears to all what was said to them. The zamindars of Astore, it appears, did not even like their mares to be served by the stallions. In these circumstances the stallions were returned to Srinagar in July 1905.

Good riding ponies are, however, available in the neighbouring Political districts where they are brought for sale by the people from Yagistan, as well as from Kashgar and Yarkand. Their price ranges up to Rs. 200 or a little more.

It appears to me that the failure of the horse breeding scheme might have been due *inter alia* to the stallions of big size having been imported for covering animals of the small size of this district. It would be worth while to try the measure once more by importing one horse and one donkey stallion of the ordinary sizes to begin with. These stallions might be let loose with the mares on pasture-lands as is done in Zanskar ilaka, where local stallions have in this way proved useful. The instructions of the Veterinary Department brought up to date should also be impressed upon the owners of the mares by the local Revenue officers.

It may as well be ascertained whether the annual cattle fair system on the lines of Kashmir, say on the occasion of the annual Political darbar, could be inaugurated here with a view of improving the present poor breed of not only the horses and donkeys, but also of sheep, goats, bullocks etc of this district.

49. As in Skardu the live-stock here are a source of considerable income.

Profits from live-stock. Their prices have been ascertained as below :—

	Gilgit	Astore
	Rs.	Rs.
Baflaloe.	... 50	
Zo	... 30	30
Zomo	... 25	25
Ox	... 30	25
Cow	... 20	20
Pony and Mule	50	40
Donkey	... 16	16
Sheep and goat	... 4	3

Zo is a hybrid of the Yak bull and the common cow. The female Zo is called Zomo. The capital of the peasant invested in live-stock amounting to Rs. 552537 has been worked out at the above rates as per details given below:—

Details	GILGIT.			ASTORE			Total.
	No. of live-stock.	Rate each. Rs.	Amount Rs.	No. of live-stock.	Rate each. Rs.	Amount Rs.	
Buffaloes Male	8	...	400	...	...	...	400
Cow	55	50	2750	...	...	...	2750
Zos ...	5	30	150	26	30	780	930
Zomos ...	3	25	75	16	25	400	475
Oxen ...	2448	30	73440	1335	25	33375	106815
Cows ...	2801	20	56020	1666	20	33320	89340
Ponies & Mules	446	50	22300	1348	40	53920	76220
Donkeys	817	16	13072	144	16	2304	15376
Sheep & Goats	18303	4	166328	17276	3	93903	260231
Total	23279	...	334535	...	...	218002	552537

The net income from this source at an interest of 10 per cent per annum amounts to Rs. 55254.

The young stock of buffaloes, oxen and cows of all species are not taken into account, as the prices, above quoted, are for the full grown cattle. The average prices of ponies, mules, donkeys, sheep and goats have been taken into calculation.

The profits from the live-stock as ascertained by me are given below, male-buffaloes, zoos and oxen being excluded from the account, as they are purely used for agricultural work.

Sheep are shorn thrice a year. After shearing, fleeces are washed and spread out to dry, and then beaten with a stick to clear them of any dust. The

entire clip yields $1\frac{1}{2}$ seers of wool per sheep. As the total number of sheep included young ones as well, which yield less wool than the grown up animals, the average yield of wool has been taken at one seer per animal.

Wool is consumed mostly at home. I take $\frac{1}{2}$ a seer of wool as the yearly saving ready for sale.

Wool is cheaper in Astore than in Gilgit and hence I have assumed its price of half a seer at -/3/- for Astore and -/4/- for Gilgit.

Socks and ropes are manufactured from goats' hair for home consumption only. Consequently they are negligible.

(ii) As regards sale of sheep and goats, they are sold to butchers, as well as to the Supply and Transport department, at the average rate of Rs. 5 each.

I will take Rs. 2/8/- as income per sheep and goat after deducting cost of their upkeep.

(iii) The rates of transport are high in the Wazarat. They are -/1/- per mile in Gilgit and -/1/9 per mile in Astore for a pony, and -/1/6 per mile throughout the Wazarat for a donkey or a cooly. There are no records in the Tahsil or the Wazarat office to show the gross earnings from these transport animals.

I have, however, discussed the question with the local officers and the leading men. I estimate the earnings at Rs. 10 p. a. for a pony or mule, and Rs. 2 p. a. for a donkey, after deducting the cost of their maintenance etc.

(iv) A cow or zomo gives two seers of milk per day for 6 months of the year. 10 seers of milk give 11 chhatanks of butter. A buffaloe yields 6 seers of milk per day for 6 months and its 10 seers of milk gives one seer of butter. The people here milk goats and sell the butter thereof. A goat gives 4 chhatanks of milk per day for 6 months, and 45 seers of milk yield 2 seers of butter.

Butter of all sorts is sold at an average of two seers per rupee.

(v) All the various allowances for cows, buffaloes and goats, when not in milk, for goats' hair and skins used at home, and for the unemployed period of ponies or donkeys have been duly made in these calculations. The profits at the above rates come to Rs. 6942/- as shown in the table below :—

Hire of ponies and mules	...	1794	(@ Rs. 10/- each	17940/-
Hire of donkeys	...	961	(@ Rs. 2/-,,	1922/-
Butter	{ Cow $\frac{1}{3}$ of ..	4467	(@ Rs. 12/6/-,,	18426/-
	{ Buffaloe $\frac{1}{4}$ of ..	55	(@ Rs. 32/-,,	440/-
	{ Goats $\frac{1}{4}$ of ..	37304	(@ Rs. -/8/-,,	4663/-
Sale of sheep and goats 1/100 of ...	72883	(@ Rs. 2/8/-,,	18221/-	
		Sheep		
Wool	{ Gilgit	18303	(@ Rs. -/4/-,,	4576/-
	{ Astore	17276	(@ Rs. -/3/-,,	3239/-
		Total		69427/-

50. The inhabitants of this district are not an enterprising race of people like their neighbouring Balti brothers, whose adventures for Miscellaneous income. making money are not restricted to Gilgit alone, but they also migrate to India where they live for years, to come back with a good deal of money. The people of Astore, however, keep ponies and command a good deal of the carrying trade with Kashmir and the Punjab, and are consequently better off than many of the Gilgitis who are rather an ease-loving people of indolent habits, unable even to attend to their own fields without active and substantial help from outside. They are at times made to work on paid labour under official pressure, and required to carry loads from one stage to another under the Res system. The wages they thus receive may be taken as the main source of their earnings, but they are not able to lay by an appreciable amount even for the rainy day, what to talk of hoarding money by such means. The people of this District are, therefore, generally poor, living from hand to mouth. The net yearly savings from wages, after making allowance for rations, clothing etc. may be estimated to be at Rs. 1/- per head adult male per annum, and the total income under this head thus calculated amounts to Rs. 5500/-.

The number of men in service in various Departments of the Kashmir State and the British Government in the District is 270. Most of these belong to the inferior service, and the corps of scouts recently raised in the Agency contribute the larger number. Others are chaprasis, harkaras, jamadars, levies, patwaris and moharrirs. One is Inspector of Levies, one Shina interpreter in the Wazarat Court and another a Treasury Head Clerk. The total earnings under this head amount to Rs. 29,883 p. a.; of this one third or an amount of Rs. 10,000 round may be taken as representing the net savings, from which, however, the zamindar community in general does not derive any benefit directly or indirectly,

51. Statement No. X gives the details of trees in the tract under Fruits. Report. The total fruit trees compared with those of Skardu shown in the following—table :—

FRUIT TREES.	DETAIL.	GILGIT.			SKARDU.
		Young.	Full grown.	Per acre cultivated.	
	Almonds	44	50	...	...
	Apricots	1963	8380	·8	2·4
	Zardalus	14737	18816	2·5	23·5
	Pomegranates	1567	2750	·3	...
	Apples	2145	2665	·4	·8
	Pears	242	333	...	·2
	Walnuts	1825	3069	·4	·3
	Grapes	1498	7304	·7	·1
	Mulberries	15358	33277	3·7	3·7
	Peaches	2444	2469	·4	·2
	Quinces	19	54	...	...
	Alubukharas	3	11	...	...
	Others	1301	2137	·3	·3
	Total ...	43146	81315	9·5	31·5

DETAIL.	GILGIT.			SKARDU.
	Young.	Full grown.	Per acre cultivated.	
FRUITLESS TREES.	Willows	27761	32110	4.6
	Poplars	15211	5691	1.6
	Chinars	114	488	...
	Sarsings	3559	3539	5
	Others	16242	26549	3.3
	Total	62887	68377	10.0
	Grand Total	106033	149692	19.5
				67.8

Fruit trees mostly grow in the warmer estates, *i.e.* in the villages of the 1st : and 2nd : circles. Vines, peaches, and pomegranates are more numerous here, while apricots are far less in number than those of Skardu.

Most of the fruit is locally consumed, a small portion of it being sold at Gilgit, or disposed of to the people of the estates where fruit trees do not grow.

The apricot trees are 8.3 per cent of all the fruit trees in the tract under report. They are of fairly good quality, and grow abundantly in the neighbouring estates of Gilgit, and are much liked by the people.

The apples are not worth much, being far inferior in quality to those of Kashmir and Skardu, and cannot be preserved long. They are consumed at home. The walnuts are only scattered here and there, and yield only a poor crop. Oil also is extracted from apricots and walnuts, which is consumed locally.

The mulberry trees grow largely, and are 39.1 per cent of all the fruit trees in the tract. They bear fruit early in spring when no other fruit is ready, and go a long way to relieve the sufferings of the people due to scarcity, effects of which are generally felt on the eve of cropping season.

The Chilghoza trees are met with in the forests of Astore.

As regards value of fruits I have discussed the matter with the leading zamindars, and the rates adopted for calculating their value may be seen from the following table :--

DETAILS.		Almonds.	Apricots.	Zardalus.	Pomegranates.	Apples.	Pear.	Walnuts.	Grapes.	Peaches.	Cherries.	Quinces.	Gardalus.	Alu-Bukharas.	Chilgozas.	TOTAL.
	Rate per tree.	2/-/-	-/3/-	-/2/-	-/2/-	-/2/-	-/2/-	-/12/-	-/4/-	-/2/-	-/2/-	-/4/-	-/2/-	-/2/-	-/2/-	
1st Circle.	Number ...	44	3170	8594	2464	882	106	1365	6195	2035	6	54	5	...	...	24920
	Value ...	88.0	594.6	1074.4	308.0	110.4	13.4	1023.12	1548.12	254.6	0.12	13.8	0.10	...	...	5229.14
2nd Circle.	Number ...	6	5172	9691	286	1393	226	1665	1109	434	...	...	1	11	1583	21577
	Value ...	12/-	969.12	1211.6/	35.12	174.2	28.4	1248.12	277.4	54.4	...	...	0.2	1.6	197.14	4210.14
3rd Circle.	Number ...	...	38	531	...	390	1	39	...	...	...	...	1	...	332	1332
	Value ...	...	7.2	66.6	...	48.12	0.2	29.4	...	...	...	...	0.2	...	41.8	193.4
TOTAL.	Number ...	50	8380	18816	2750	2665	333	3069	7304	2469	6	54	7	11	1915	47829
	Value ...	100.0	1571.4	2352.0	343.12	333.2	41.10	2397.12	1826.0	308.10	0.12	13.8	0.14	1.6	239.6	9434

It would appear from the foregoing tables that the number of fruit trees is not large enough here for separate assessment being levied on them. They are rather a sight to see, and we should therefore encourage their growth for the present, rather than stand in the way of their development by assessing them separately. Much of the fruit grown here is of inferior quality, and trees grown in or around the fields damage crops to a great extent. Most of the trees yield biennial crop of fruit, while others yield an annual crop in a small quantity. The surrounding ilakas of Hunza-Nagar on the north, Skardu on the east, Kashmir on the south, and Punial on the west, grow abundant fruit of a better quality, and no fruit can therefore be exported from the tract under report. Some villages, however, supply fresh fruit in negligible quantity to the colder estates in their vicinity, because fresh fruits if stored would not stand the weather for a long time. Thus the fruit growing estates do not profit much by the bargain. The fruit is moreover grown in places, where ponies are scarce, and the sale proceeds after deducting the wages of men carrying them on their back should not be taken into consideration. It may also be remarked that the fruit trees being not a source of considerable income, the people are naturally averse to their being assessed or a portion of the land revenue being imposed on the same. I am, therefore, inclined to think that, as in Kargil or Skardu, the fruit trees may be considered in the village assessments, and not assessed separately for the present.

52. Both the Indus and Gilgit rivers possess auriferous deposits, though not extensively. The Hunza-Nagar (above Danyor) and Gold washing.

Bagrot streams which are the principal affluents of the Gilgit are comparatively rich in gold. Washing is done more or less in villages of the Gilgit ilaka except in Sharot, Shukaiot, Bargu-Bala, and Bargu-Pain, Basin, Partabpura, Barmas, Soni-Kot, Gilgit, Hanzal, Kargah, and the villages in Haramosh ilaka. Gold washers who solely depend upon this profession are called "Mohan;" they are mostly met with at Chhamogah and in the Sai and Bunji ilakas. They extract gold whenever they like and pay license fee (d) Rs. 10 per Kishti.

The great number of washers visit these rivers annually from Baltistan, and take up licenses for washing gold from the sand of the Gilgit and the Indus rivers.

Gold washing is practised generally in the months of Bhadon to end of Jeth, when river water generally subsides, and is clear enough to allow sand being washed out more easily and freely to pick up the gold.

Three men are required to work at Kishti, one of whom digs sand, the other brings it to the Kishti and the third washes gold out of it. The gold of the Bagrot nalla is celebrated for its quality and redness of colour; it is comparatively more weighty, while gold of the Gilgit river above the place where it meets the Hunza is not considered to be so good and is, therefore, rarely washed out. The return for the labour is ample, the ready rate being Rs. 20 per tola. It is, however, bought at Rs 16 per tola when the money for it may be advanced at least 3 months beforehand. Licenses are issued under Notification No. 8 dated 4th : Har 1962. The particulars of receipts from issue of licenses are given below :—

Year.	No. of licenses.	Income to the State.
		Rs.
1955	51	510
1956	45	450
1957	47	470
1958	36	360
1959	34	340
1960	24	240
1961	35	350
1962	27	270
1963	66	660
1964	48	480
1965	61	610
1966	64	640
1967	58	580
1968	52	520
1969	50	500
1970	46	460
1971	55	550
1972	55	550
<hr/>		
Total for 18 years	854	8540
Average per year	47	474

The villages paying revenue in gold are exempt from the provisions of the Regulation.

The mining Jamadar in the Wazarat, paid at Rs. 12 plus Rs. 7 local allowance, supervises the gold washing operations, to check illicit extraction of gold and proper working of the Licenses under the rules.

The people believe that glaciers are generators of gold and are replete with mineral wealth.

53. There are no mines, closed or open, in the District under report, nor has the work of exploring the mines ever been undertaken. Mineral and Jungle products. in the District. The hill sides are mostly arid and treeless, though endowed with scanty vegetation here and there. Such of the low sides as bound the nallas are however, dotted with trees of Chil, Padam and Kuntals. Birches are rare. Guchhis, Zira, and Banafsha are also found in places. Shilajit stone is met with to a small extent, and is sold at about Rs. 8 a maund. Molath grows abundantly in Danyor, Partabpura, Nomal, Sharot, and Shukaiot, but the people do not know the use of the herb. Zira grass is obtainable in Rattu, Chhugam, Rampur, Gurikot, Mir-Malik, and Khudkisht-Dashkin, and the ilaka of Zila-Bala in Astore. It is also found in Naltar in a small quantity. It yields a good crop after heavy rains which are useful when the plants are in flower.

54. Astore is comparatively rich in forests. The forest of Mushkin, Ramah and the Pari-Shing valley are the homes of the edible pines, the Chilgoza trees being met with in the main valley largely.

Forests. The present arrangement's to conserve the forests of the District are only nominal. The Wazarat mining Jamadar getting Rs. 12 p. m. is entrusted with the additional duty of looking after the scattered forests of the Gilgit ilaka, and reporting cases of infringement against the Forest Rules, (sanctioned under the State Council Resolution No. 35 dated the 12th : December 1901). But the forests worth the name are found in Astore ilaka, where there are no arrangements whatsoever for the preservation of forests.

The Settlement Commissioner in para 31 to 40 of his note on Gilgit matters dated 23rd January 1911 remarked as follows.

31. "The present state of the case is that there is no forest conservancy, but permission has to be obtained from the Tahsil before trees can be felled. Tahsildars have powers to give permission for five trees or less, but if the applicant wants, not whole trees, but small timber for rafter he has to go to the Wazir; though for such purposes I believe, only dead timber is given.

32. The forests in Astore are fairly extensive, and are of no commercial value, while the population is too scanty to make much impression on them; so that it is proper to allow the people as much liberty as possible in supplying their wants. Those forests which I have seen, (excluding those of Chilgoza and pencil-cedar which are practically useless), consist chiefly of blue pine mixed with a good deal of spruce, and some silver fir, pencil cedar, bird cherry, etc. Lower down poplar and willow are common in places. Higher up there are fairly extensive birch forests, and in the upper part of the only high nalla which I have seen (Kamri) a good deal of silver fir in patches with the birch.

33. "The Mushkin forest on the main road seems to suffer from periodical fires caused by Markbans halting in it. The only other forest near villages, which I have seen at close quarters, is that which lies about 2000 feet above the Doyan bungalow; this has been badly cut about in the lower part, but there is plenty of reproduction.

34. "The trees in the forests which I have seen grow to a good height, but are very deficient in girth. It is one source of complaint that permits are given to fell trees not less than 6' girth (a restriction which seems to have been intended originally for contractors only) and it is a fact that trees above that size are very rare; it seems open to question whether it is desirable to enforce a restriction which tends to eliminate the few big trees that exist, when these are troublesome for the people to deal with. There is no one to see that the restriction is enforced, so perhaps it does not matter much, but from what I have seen it seems probable that, when big trees are felled, only the upper and more manageable parts are used, and the lower part is left to rot. I should be inclined to reduce the limit to 4' or $4\frac{1}{2}'$ feet girth, which may seem low, but I do not think the average mature tree in these forests is much more.

35. "Spruce as a timber tree is, I believe, hardly inferior to blue pine, but it is never taken, because of the greater difficulty of working it up.

36. Dead standing trees seem to be often used in preference to green trees. There are many dead fallen trees, a considerable portion of them apparently quite fit for use, and they do no good in the forest. It should be considered whether permission should not be given to Zamindars to take dead fallen trees, without permit, for their own use only; I would not extend such permission to dead standing trees unless it was extended at the same time to green trees, as it might lead to trees being killed. I have seen some ringed, and there might be a risk of fire unless the permission could be coupled with strict closures after fires, for which there is no establishment.

37. "All forests are undemarcated, and I do not believe it is worth while to carry out any general demarcation, but it would be useful to lay out a line of pillars in places where cultivation has extended up to the edge of the forest, and has probably encroached on it, (as at Doyan). The object would be merely to fix a line beyond which cultivation must not be extended.

38. "In Gilgit one sees in a casual journey much less of forests, but there seems to be sufficient for the needs of the country, high up the hills, and probably they are more extensive in big side Nallas like that of Bagrot. The hills, however, are bare compared with those of Astore. The greater distance of the forest from the villages probably prevents their being seriously over worked, and except so far as their smaller extent involves a greater risk of this, the same considerations apply as in Astore.

39. "The simple rules in force seem on the whole to be suitable and sufficient: in this district, where the forests cannot be worked commercially, it should be the first object to avoid all unnecessary restrictions and regulations. At the same time restrictions, if really necessary in order to preserve the forest for future generations, should not be avoided merely because they may be inconvenient to the people, and would require some sort of establishment to enforce them. The Settlement Officer should be able to ascertain whether there is any risk of the forests being destroyed, and, if there is any doubt on the point, a qualified Forest officer should be called in to advise, and to report whether any areas require closure for reproduction.

I may note seriatim as below:—

Para 33.—The question of prevention of fires in the Mushkin and Doian Forests has since been settled in the correspondence that has taken place between the Political Agent, the Wazir Wazarat, and the Commissariat Department. Necessary steps have been taken to prohibit the Markabans from halting in the said Jungles, where they used to graze their ponies and kindle fires which they left in flames at the time of their departure. The reckless cutting in the lower part of the Doian Jungle can only be safeguarded by the appointment of proper staff.

Para 34.—As regards the trees of fixed girth permitted for felling, I am of opinion that the present limit of 6' girth may as advised by the Settlement

Commissioner be reduced to $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet, but at the time of issuing permits the requirements of the zamindars may be distributed over big and small trees in proportion. Wholesale permission for cutting big or small trees is not desirable as in the case of present girth limit being reduced, as recommended, the zamindars would like to have 4 smaller trees rather than one big tree, to save the inconvenience of carriage and sawing etc. This may be seen to in granting permits.

Para 36.—As regards the unrestricted permission to zamindars for taking away dead fallen trees for their own use, I think that such permission, if given unchecked, might afford considerable opportunity to the zamindars to abuse the concession. The forests in this part of the country are generally situated far from head quarters of the administration. There is at present no staff to look after them. In these circumstances it might be quite easy for the zamindars to go and fell a number of trees in isolated places in the Jungles, and let them dry for some time in order to justify their action of removal later on. There is no doubt, however, that much of the dead fallen wood is at present allowed to be reduced to dust rather than put to any use. Such wood may be removed by the zamindars under competent supervision from time to time.

Para 37.—I agree with the Settlement Commissioner that boundary pillars demarcating the line of forest as distinguished from cultivation may be laid out in places where required. This is not much to do, and the Revenue officers can easily get it done by the zamindars. Cases of dispute, if any, would be very rare, and may be settled by the Wazir Wazarat.

Para 39.—The question of Forest conservancy in this District has been the subject of some correspondence between the Revenue Minister and the Wazir Wazarat. It was contemplated in 1912 that a Forest officer should be deputed for the summer months to visit the forests of this District for purposes of advice, if preservation of and improvements to village forests supply could be useful. The idea did not quite find favour with the then Wazir Wazarat, Major (Now Colonel) Janak Singh, who opined that the task of forestation appeared to him to be a hopeless one, especially beyond Doinn towards Gilgit where the country is not congenial to reproduction of Deodars, silver firs etc. The Wazir further argued that even if the visit of a Forest Officer resulted in the growth of such trees, the question of consumption of such valuable timber will have to be confronted in the absence of any local market for the same, except the consumption of the timber on a small scale by the State Public Works Department on a few State buildings. The Indus river, passing as it does through a considerable distance of its course in the independent Yagistan territory, could not take down timber to the Punjab markets without running some risk of loss of timber in transit.

In order to preserve and improve the village Forest supply, the Wazir proposed some establishment consisting of one head guard and 5 guards at an expense of Rs. 700/- annually. The amount was not, however, provided in the ensuing years' Budget, and at the instance of the Political Agent Gilgit the question of deputation of a special Forest Officer was postponed for a year.

In his telegram No. 1979-D. O. of the 1st July 1914 however, the Political Agent strongly recommended to the Revenue Minister for the deputation

of a qualified Forest Officer to inspect the Forests in the Wazarat especially, those situated in the neighbourhood of Bunji and Gilgit, which in the Political Agent's opinion stood in urgent need of conservation, but nothing appears to have been done so far. I think the appointment of a qualified Forest Ranger to report on the limited number of Forests of this district would meet the requirements of the case. The deputation of a Forest Officer would not be worth the game.

Paras 31, 32, 35, and 38 call for no remarks.



CHAPTER—IV.

CROPS AND YIELDS.

55. The nature of past harvests, as excerpted from the Annual Administration Reports of the Wazarat and the files of Takhmina Paidawar dating from Rabi 1956 is summarized below:—

Past harvests. 1956.—In some villages of Gilgit Rabi crops did not fare well owing to unfavourable season.

1957.—Both the Rabi and Kharif crops were good on the whole, crops having been insignificantly damaged in some places of Astore.

1958.—Rabi crops in Gilgit with the exception of a few villages were good. In Bunji crops looked promising in the beginning but the yield was rather poor. Trumba crops were somewhat damaged by untimely rains; Kharif crops were otherwise good.

1959.—Crops suffered in Gilgit to some extent owing to the unfavourable season. In Astore Trumba and China crops were partly damaged by untimely rains and early setting in of cold weather.

1960.—Crops were promising in Astore in the beginning, but they suffered to some extent owing to excessive rains. Food and fodder also ran short there. In Gilgit and Bunji the year was favourable, and crops were good on the whole.

1961.—Rabi crops were below average in some villages of Gilgit, having suffered from early rains to some extent. In Astore Rabi crops were average. Kharif crops were good throughout.

1962.—Satisfactory on the whole. Weather was favourable and rain was opportune and well distributed, with the exception of certain upper tracts in Astore, where Kharif crops did not fare well.

1963.—General condition of both the harvests remained good. Weather was favourable, and rain was timely and well distributed.

1964.—Both the harvests were generally satisfactory. Weather was favourable and rains, though excessive, were well distributed.

1965.—General condition of the harvests during the year was poor.

1966.—Good on the whole; but in certain estates of Astore, where crops were considerably damaged by untimely fall of rains, revenue in grain had to be realised in cash.

1967.—Rabi harvests were below average in Gilgit, owing to the weather remaining unusually cloudy. In some estates of Astore the crops suffered to some extent owing to snowfall early in Jeth, but the outturn was well nigh average. Kharif crops were average throughout the District.

1968.—Satisfactory. Weather remained favourable, and rains were timely and well distributed throughout, with the exception of a few villages in Astore.

1969.—Good in Gilgit. Weather was fair on the whole. In Astore certain upper tracts suffered from untimely rain and snowfall.

1970.—A normal year. Kharif harvests suffered to some extent from early winter. In Bagrot heavy rains in the month of Sawan were followed by floods, and cultivation was swept away in places.

1971.—Average.

56. The tract under report being mountainous, lands for cultivation have Agriculture and system of to be prepared and levelled at a great cost of labour and cultivation. trouble. Level lands affording easy cultivation are but rare. Mountain slopes and alluvial plateaus have been cut into terraced fields supported by retaining walls which have to be constantly maintained. The height of these retaining walls varies with the sloping nature or steepness of the tract. Owing to the sloping nature of the lands the fields are divided into very small plots, as the larger beds require higher retaining walls. The walls

are made with a view to prevent the surface of the fields being swept away by the action of water irrigating them. In the deep valleys cultivation is generally scattered, and the fields distant from the houses are not well looked after.

In some of the lower and warmer parts where two crops are raised, the soil is usually of sandy and stony character and the shallow layers of light earth do not allow the plants to grow well. Lands lying immediately at the foot of the hills are more stony, on account of debris which keeps falling down the hills and accumulates in the fields below.

The upper and colder parts possess a better soil mixed with loam. They however, yield only one crop in summer, the lands there remaining under snow during the winter. The labour of walling the fields in cold parts is comparatively less, and the crops require to be watered less frequently than those in the lower and warmer parts. The main slopes of the mountains enclosing these tracts being less exposed to the sun are generally moist, and allow forests and pastures to grow on them.

The increasing demand for grains since the Regular Settlement necessitated the breaking up of new areas for cultivation. The hill sides were terraced and cultivated wherever water for irrigation could be carried. Some of these lands had, however, to be given up, as they subsequently proved to be very poor in quality, or their sources of water supply failed.

The tract being rainless, land is almost wholly irrigated by artificial water courses, which owing to the physical nature of the country are difficult to maintain.

The people of Gilgit, unlike those of Hunza-Nagar and Skardu, are generally lazy and appear to take not much pains in cultivating their lands. They have also little liking for manual labour, which is supplied at places by the Baltis, and partly by the people from Yagistan and Hunza-Nagar, who work for zamindars on their lands. The people of Astore are, however, more laborious than those of Gilgit, and do not depend on foreign labour at all. Compared with Hunza-Nagar and Skardu, the pressure on cultivation due to growth of population is less heavy here, and this probably constitutes the main reason that accounts for the slovenly habits of the people. Another difficulty, that perhaps stands in the way of the people attending to their fields properly, appears to be the burden of Kar-begar. With the exception of ploughing and other hard duties the work of agriculture is mainly left to the women folk. During summer the men spin the wool, while the boys look after their flocks on the mountain pastures. In the snowy tracts where pasture lands remain covered with snow during winter, cattle are confined to the village, and are looked after by the females.

Manures :—As sand and stone predominate in the soil, crops cannot flourish well in the absence of manure. Dead leaves of trees, rotten straw and wild plants are collected in the beginning of spring inside the enclosures attached almost to every house, where people keep their domestic animals. The dung of sheep, goats, cattle and horses is also mixed with them later on.

Kabirbooti (a wild plant) is also made to serve as a manure particularly on Shali lands.

Giram is the best manured crop in the district, but in the tracts of lower altitude, where wheat is succeeded by maize the same year, the land receives the same amount of manure, otherwise the maize would not flourish well. In the tracts yielding only one crop of maize, the land is manured only once a year before sowing. Wheat producing areas in eksasli lands are, however manured every third or fourth year only. Inferior lands are manured only in case manure is available after superior lands have had their full share, but the peasant tries his utmost to have his whole holding manured from time to time.

Ploughing :—The chief instruments used in the tillage of soil are plough and *Dali*. The plough is made of wood, shod with iron, and is very light. It is generally drawn by bullocks which are occasionally replaced in Astore by ponies, if the former are not available.

Fields are generally ploughed after throwing seed and levelled immediately after to cover it, so that it may not be eaten up by birds. This process of levelling is done by *Dali*, which consists of wooden planks bound together that are drawn by the bullocks over the ploughed fields. *Dali* is dispensed with in poor soils to save frequent watering of crops, and to prevent the top soil being washed away.

In the low lying double cropped areas sowing is done after the land has been ploughed twice or thrice, whereas in the tracts yielding one crop a year, and in the higher and colder regions, land lies fallow during autumn, and seed is thrown in spring, after which it is generally ploughed twice.

The sowing of Indian corn and china are preceded by two ploughings.

Trumba fields are once ploughed and left to weather for a few days before sowing, to admit the grass mixed with the soil to dry up.

Shali nurseries are manured, ploughed, and irrigated before sowing, and the system of transplanting is the same as followed in Kashmir.

Sowing :—Time of sowing varies in different tracts. It generally commences early in spring. In the low lying estates, where wheat is succeeded by the Kharif crop of maize, wheat is sown from 15th November to 15th January at any time when the soil is not frosty. Maize is sown in July and August. In those villages where giram is raised as the Rabi crop instead of wheat, the former is sown immediately after the 15th January, so as to get sufficient time for growing and harvesting maize in Kharif. In villages where trumba succeeds giram as the Kharif crop the sowing of important Rabi crops takes place from the beginning of March to the middle of May. In the villages which are extremely cold and yield only one crop a year, May is the month for sowing.

In villages lying in high altitudes, which yield only one crop a year, the land has first to be cleared of snow by spreading earth over the fields in the beginning of April, and sowing is commenced in May.

Late or early sowings generally give bad crop everywhere.

Waterings :—In the warm tracts of Gilgit the Rabi crops of wheat and giram are sown in winter, and do not receive water until 20 days after the Nauroz day. They ripen with 10 to 12 waterings. Giram, however, takes less time to mature than wheat, but it is more delicate, as, unlike the latter, it cannot stand and survive without sufficient watering. Maize china, mash, and mung require 7 or 8 waterings but the crops grown in poor lands receive more water before maturity.

In the snowy tracts sowings of wheat and giram are begun rather late. The land being moist before sowing the crops ripen with 5 or 6 waterings.

Crops of Indian corn and trumba in snowy tracts have to be watered 3 to 4 times they mature. Timely rains are helpful to crops.

Weeding :—Weeding is generally done by a small pointed piece of iron with a wooden handle, but weeds are rooted up at places without the help of any instrument. Crops of wheat, giram, trumba, china, and kangani are weeded only once, whereas maize, cotton and sha'i crops require two or more weedings according to the amount of weeds that are to be rooted up.

Cropping :—The old lands near habitations have grown rich in soils after years of labour expanded to improve them. They never fail to bear two crops a year in the warm estates of Gilgit.

In Astore and cold tracts of Gilgit land is double cropped, if the peasant can manage to supply sufficient manure and the locality is warm enough to allow seven months at least for cropping. Wheat and pulses which take long to mature are not succeeded by another crop in the same year, while gram is succeeded by kangni, china, trumba or turnips that ripen within three months of sowing. There are some tracts in Astore which are extremely cold, and produce only one crop of wheat, giram, mattar, china or trumba, etc. There are also many pieces of land of poor quality in Gilgit and Astore, which are left fallow for a year or two to recuperate vitality. They are generally situated far from the houses, and manure can not reach them without much difficulty.

In some villages of Gilgit, however, the supply of irrigation is so defective that the people have to leave uncropped part of their cultivation every year for want of irrigation.

Rotation of crops :—It is generally believed that crops thrive well under the rotation system. Dofasli lands producing maize or other valuable crops in Kharif are left fallow at times during the Kharif, or the Kharif crops is replaced by one of the crops of inferior kinds, growing of which does not exhaust materially the power of the soil. Giram is substituted for wheat at times as a matter of rotation. Ekfasli lands are also sometimes left fallow throughout the whole year, or the usual crop of wheat giram or makki is succeeded by another crop of less importance, to allow the land rest for a little while to recoup its lost vitality and power.

In the estates where the climate is extremely cold some two or three harvests of giram are succeeded by a harvest of mattar or trumba, in order to give strength to the land.

Harvesting :—Good crops are generally cut with sickle close to the roots, others are at times uprooted by softening the soil with watering of the fields a day or two before. In dosasli estates Rabi crops are not threshed before Kharif crops are sown. They are allowed to lie in the fields in loosely bound sheaves, and the sowing of the Kharif crop is taken up in right earnest, otherwise it would get late, and little time would be left for the Kharif crops to mature before the onset of winter, and pits for storage of grain are also common.

In Astore the crops are cut before the first fall of snow.

The process of threshing is performed by ponies and donkeys as well as by cows. The straw is stored in houses. Grass and maize stalks are placed over the roofs, or amongst the branches of the neighbouring trees. Grains are generally stored in the houses, but Kothals of grain placed on the roofs are also met with in most of the villages.

57. I do not consider it advisable that the calculations of produce estimates be based on the average crops of the preceding years, as any attempt at comparison would be futile for the following reasons :—

- (a) At the last Settlement much of the cultivated area was returned as cultivated, and little Minhai for the waste existing in cultivation was allowed.
- (b) The measurements of waste lands subsequently broken up by the zamindars under the provision of Regulation No. 6 were made by incompetent Patwaris, and cannot evidently be relied upon.
- (c) The crop returns of the years previous to 1972, based as they are on the areas returned at last Settlement, are faulty. Besides it is not safe to depend upon the entries of the Girdawaris made by the incompetent Patwaris, as they were not checked carefully by responsible officers.
- (d) The classification of soils adopted at last Settlement as mentioned in para 34 is also defective.

I have therefore worked out my estimates of produce on the basis of the crop returns for 1972, vide statement No. XI, which shows the figures of crops for that year. They can safely be relied upon in the tract under report, where there is not much scope for extension of cultivation owing to the limited sources of irrigation, and where fluctuations in the harvested area are negligible.

58. The detailed crop returns attached as statement Nos. II and III show the crops grown in each harvest on each class of soil, with percentage of every crop on the total area sown in each circle. A supplementary statement No. IV shows the cropping on 100 acres of cultivation, without distinction of classes in each circle.

Crop returns, crops matured and failed.

The table below gives the same information of cropping in each circle :—

Assessment Circle.	RABI.			KHARIF.			TOTAL.		
	Matured.	Failed.	Total sown.	Matured.	Failed.	Total sown.	Matured.	Failed.	Total sown.
1st : Circle ...	63.5	2.2	65.7	47.2	.9	48.1	110.7	3.1	113.8
2nd : Circle ...	76.5	1.1	77.6	17.9	.6	18.5	94.4	1.7	96.1
3rd : Circle ...	93.4	.1	93.5	.2	...	.2	93.6	.1	93.7
Total ...	72.9	1.5	74.4	29	.6	29.6	101.9	2.1	104

It would be seen that the percentages of matured crops on cultivated area are considerably lower than those of Skardu (para 44 of the Skardu report), where the pressure of population on cultivation is heavier than in Gilgit, and the peasant tries to get as much out of his land as possible.

The figures of Kharaba are not reliable, as in spite of frequent instructions and orders, Karkuns seldom give proper deductions for Kharaba.

The amla at the time of Kharif Girdawari was working in Astore, and some men were sent from there to Gilgit for Girdawari, who it appears did not arrive in time to see each field just at the time the crops ripened. I am, therefore, inclined to think that sufficient allowance for failure of crops has not been made, in this tract where cultivation is scattered in ravines or over the hills, and the distance from one block of cultivation to another is at places very great.

59. The following table indicates the important crops of the District Principal crops. under report. Percentage of each crop on the total area sown (including Kharaba) is also given :—

Detail.	1st : Circle.	2nd : Circle.	3rd : Circle.	Tahsil.
Wheat	39.2	33.5	39.7	37.2
Giram and Barley ...	3.8	16.1	29.6	11.5
Maize	21.9	7.6	1.2	14.2
China and Kangani ...	2.8	10.5	3.7	5.7
Mash and Mung ...	10.5	1.1	...	5.7

It is remarkable that more wheat is grown in the tract under report than in any Tehsil of the Ladak District.

Maize, mash and mung are also grown in a much larger quantity here than in Skardu ; giram, barley, and trumba are comparatively less here. There is, however, no great difference in the area under china and kangani in the two tracts under comparison. Skardu does not produce shali and cotton, which in Gilgit are grown in a few villages of the 1st. class, the total area under these being, however, very small.

60. There is no local measure of land based on seed or otherwise in ^{Statement of zamindars regarding yields.} most of the villages, and the people cannot tell the rates of seed sown and the produce raised by them. In cold ilakas and in the localities, where wild grass, growing luxuriantly in the fields, prevents the full growth of crops, seeds are scattered comparatively in a larger quantity.

In Minawar and some other estates of the first circle the old system of measurements based on the valuation of lands still exists. Lands are measured with a string and divided into patches each valued at a "tulu" of Rs. 10 (Tulu is equal to 8 mashas of gold-dust). Pieces of land so divided are called :—

One	Tulu	=	One	Aieno	Paji-Aieno as ascertained by me is equal to about 10 marlas but it measures differently in different classes of soils.
Two	Tulus	=	„	Duaο	
Three	„	=	„	Teao	
Four	„	=	„	Charao	
Five	„	=	„	Ponao	
Six	„	=	„	Shao	
Seven	„	=	„	Satao	
Eight	„	=	„	Athao	
Nine	„	=	„	Nauao	
Ten	„	=	„	Dahao	
Eleven	„	=	„	Akaao	
Twelve	„	=	„	Bao	

Bao, i-e, field valued at 12 tulus is a maximum limit. The valuation of aieno of Awaji and Das-Kharkat is calculated to be equal to $\frac{2}{3}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ respectively of that of one aieno of Paji ; Awaji aieno and Das-Kharkat aieno are therefore equal to 15 and 20 marlas respectively.

The following table works out seed and produce in topas on an aieno :—

Staples.	PAJI.			AWAJI.			DAS.			Kharkat.		
	Aieno.	Seed.	Pro- duce.	Aieno.	Seed.	Pro- duce.	Aieno.	Seed.	Pro- duce.	Aieno.	Seed.	Pro- duce.
Wheat ...	10	3	20	15	5	20	20	6	20	20	6	20
Maize ...	10	1½	30	15	2½	30	20	4	30	20	4	30

Note :—1 Topa = $2\frac{1}{2}$ seers.

During my measurement inspections I enquired into the amount of seed sown and the amount of grain raised from each field which I had to inspect on the spot. The result of my enquiries thus made regarding the produce of each soil in each assessment circle is given in the tables under each kind of grains described in paras 64 to 73 of this Report.

61. The Settlement amla reached Gilgit at the end of Katak 1971, when the crops had all been harvested; no crop experiment could, therefore, be carried out that year. The Sambat year 1972 was normal throughout, cuttings extending over 32 acres, or decimal 2 per cent of cultivation, were made for experiments in both the harvests of the year.

The number of experiments conducted by officers of several ranks were 73 in the Rabi and 28 in the Kharif.

The table below shows the area in acres experimented upon:—

Detail.	Total cultivation.	AREA EXPERIMENTED UPON			REMARKS.
		Rabi.	Kharif.	Total.	
1st Circle	6128	12	7	19	
2nd Circle	5128	8	3	11	
3rd Circle	1892	2	...	2	
Total	13148	22	10	32	

Most of the measurement work in Gilgit was finished in the winter of 1971, and the Settlement men had to move to Astore before the Rabi crops of 1972 in Gilgit were ready for experiments. I had to go to Skardu and could not return before the 15th Bhadon 1972. The remaining time of the working season was hardly sufficient for my inspection of the measurements in Astore. The Settlement Naib Tahsildars could not have conducted a sufficiently large number of experiments in Gilgit, without letting the work in Astore suffer at a stage when it was in full swing. Moreover the villages in these parts, generally situated at enormous distances from each other, rendered it difficult for the very few officers to carry out many experiments. Necessary instructions were issued to the officers concerned in Chet 1971, but unfortunately the experiments that were made were not well distributed over each assessment circle, various soils and crops. Most of the crops selected were either below or above the average. Crop experiments made under such unfavourable circumstances cannot, therefore, be of much value, and I shall simply take them as a rough guide for assuming rates of yields.

62. The first class villages of Gilgit are certainly warmer, and enjoy longer summer than those of the first class of Skardu, but the second class of the former are rather cold as compared with those of the latter. The third class villages mostly lying in the Astore ilaka can neither be advantageously compared with the adjoining ilaka of Gurez, which

Comparison with other tracts.

does, not produce wheat at all, nor with the third class of Skardu, which are on the whole less cold than those of Gilgit. For purposes of comparison, however, the third class villages of Gilgit may be said to have some relation with fourth class villages of Skardu. It may be remarked that the soil of the Gilgit Tahsil is better in quality, but receives less attention on the part of zamindars than that of Skardu.

63. The classification of soils adopted at Settlement was not quite consistent with the local circumstances. The rates of outturn

Rate of out-turn.

of Hail-abi were estimated at twice as much as for Abi, which included soils of different qualities. The classification of soils has now altogether been altered, and the yields assumed at Settlement cannot with advantage be compared with the yields adopted now. It may, however, be said with confidence that the rates of out-turn of Settlement are considerably higher than those assumed now.

Paji possesses substantially the same inherent capacity as Awaji, and any difference in their productive power may be attributed to the fact that Paji lies nearer habitations, and is consequently looked after better than Awaji. It is difficult to estimate precisely their difference of outturn, even the trained eyes getting puzzled at times in making distinction of one class of soil from the other. The zamindars however estimate the produce of Awaji at about 4/5 of that of Paji.

Das and Kharkat are very poor soils, they are given rest and cultivated at intervals. They give almost equal yields.

Niral, though very cold, has the advantage of receiving more or less manure in summer when the cattle resort to hills for grazing. The soil is good in quality, and yields more than Das-Kharkat.

The Rabi crops in the various classes of villages do not differ much in their quantity of yield, except when serious damage to crops is done in the cold estates by late spring or early winter, or in the warm estates by grubs or Kai.

I asked the Settlement Naib Tahsildars to independently work out average rates of outturn, and their estimates have been taken into consideration in fixing my rates, though I have chiefly been guided by my personal knowledge of the tract.

64. WHEAT is the most important Rabi crop, and is steadily gaining in popularity with the progress of trade and civilization in these parts. It is chiefly grown in the 1st class villages, which occupy the warmest parts of the District. It is succeeded by maize, pulses, or dals in the first and some of the second class villages, the other villages being generally too cold to yield a second crop after wheat during the same year.

Wheat is grown on all soils. It does not require as much manure as the giram and maize crops do, but in places where a Kharif crop of maize is to succeed that of wheat, manuring becomes indispensable. In colder tracts wheat is generally grown in good soils, where giram cannot be sown on account of paucity of manure.

It is of two varieties :—

- (i). " Sheo-gom " (White wheat.)
- (ii). " Lo-gom " (Red wheat). The former is the best, but takes longer to ripen than the latter, and is grown in some of the first class villages where summer is the longest. The other variety takes about three weeks less than the Sheo to ripen, and is grown in all the three classes of villages.
- (iii) " Badakhshani " seed, said to have been imported from Badakhshan, is also sown here and there in the Gilgit ilaka.
- (iv) A fourth variety called " Ungro " is grown in Astore. It takes as much time to ripen as the giram, and is succeeded by a Kharif crop. Its grain is, however, thinner and lighter in weight.

Wheat is either sown separately or mixed with bakla, massur or mattar. The average results of crop experiments are too high to be followed, but the yields assumed by me can be said to be fairly average for the tract, though they are higher than those of Skardu, yet lower than those of the last Settlement.

The yields now assumed, and other figures bearing on the same, in seers per acre ; are tabulated below :—

Assessment circle.	Details.	CLASSES OF SOIL				
		Paji.	Bruin.	Awaji.	Das Kharkat.	Niral.
FIRST	By crop experiment ...	566	...	379	115	...
	As stated by zamindar ...	616	...	493	349	...
	Assumed in Skardu ...	440	...	365	270	280
	Assumed at Settlement ...	500	...	250	...	...
	Assumed now ...	480	390	390	260	320
SECOND	By crop experiment ...	597	...	485	207	480
	As stated by zamindar ...	655	...	524	290	...
	Assumed in Skardu ...	430	...	360	270	275
	Assumed at Settlement ...	500	...	250	...	...
	Assumed now ...	440	...	350	260	300
THIRD	By crop experiment ...	604	...	498	...	...
	As stated by zamindar ...	427	...	342	...	...
	Assumed in Skardu ...	400	...	330	245	250
	Assumed at Settlement ...	420	...	215	...	...
	Assumed now ...	395	...	325	250	265

65. GIRAM is not so important a crop in this District as it is in Ladakh and Baltistan. It is, however, consumed by both men and animals here. Generally the best pieces of land are reserved for this crop, and it is seldom grown in Das-Khar-kat soils. The land has of necessity to be manured, and the crop is well looked after.

Its output is about quarter as much more as that of wheat, and its crop enjoys immunity from the ravages of Rai, to which wheat crop at times falls a victim. Compared with wheat, the giram crop takes less time to mature, and its cultivation is preferred to that of wheat in the double cropped villages, where the remaining part of summer season for growing and harvesting the second crop after the first may be short.

Giram is either (i) "Sheo-yo" (White giram) or (ii) "Nilo-yo" (Green giram). The former is grown in the warmer tracts while the latter which takes less time to mature and can better withstand severity of cold is sown in regions colder. It is rather light and does not make as good food as the "Sheo-yo."

There is also another kind of giram seed, said to have been imported into some of the estates, situated on the right side of the Astore river, from Shigar-thang, a very cold estate in Skardu Tahsil. This variety of giram is sown in very cold tracts, but it does not give a good crop, nor does its grain form so good a food.

The outturns of crop experiments in the second and third circles are respectively based on only two and one experiments which are hardly enough for assuming average produce, and no value can, therefore, be attached to them.

The rates of yields assumed, together with the other information is tabulated below:—

Assessment circle.	Details.	CLASSES OF SOIL			
		Paji.	Awaji.	Das Kharkat.	Niral.
FIRST	By crop experiments	...	577	571	...
	As stated by zamindars	...	816	653	...
	Assumed in Skardu	...	460	380	285 290
	Assumed at Settlement	...	690	345	...
	Assumed now	...	500	410	275 330
SECOND	By crop experiments	...	731	...	...
	As stated by zamindars	...	731	585	...
	Assumed in Skardu	...	450	375	285 290
	Assumed at Settlement	...	645	322	...
	Assumed now	...	470	380	275 320
THIRD	By crop experiments	...	700	...	...
	As stated by zamindars	...	700	560	...
	Assumed in Skardu	...	440	365	270 275
	Assumed at Settlement	...	500	250	...
	Assumed now	...	420	350	265 290

66. Barley is equal in value to giram. It is grown on a small scale in a few estates of the 1st: and 3rd: class. The crop being more sensitive to cold than wheat is sown late in the spring. It stands in need of less manure, and exhausts the soil less than giram. It is grown in places where manure cannot be had, and no second crop can be raised after it in the same year.

The rates of yield assumed are given in the table below, together with the data on which the assumptions are based:—

Assessment circle.	Details.	CLASSES OF SOIL.		
		Pajji.	Awaji	Das Kharkat.
First ...	By crop experiments ... ...	...	660	...
	Assumed in Skardu	455	375	280
	Assumed now	490	400	265
Third ...	Assumed in Skardu	430	360	265
	Assumed at Settlement	450	225	...
	Assumed now	410	340	245

67. SHALI (local name, "Bruin") is sown either in the 1st Circle ... 1'8 lands solely meant for it, or in those which have been under 2nd " ... 8 3rd " ... 8 Talisil " ... 8 other crops for certain years.

In order to turn an ordinary sandy soil into "Bruin" or Shali land, water is allowed to stand in it for days to let the silt deposit on the same.

Bruin is generally ekfashi, but in the warmer estates, Shaftal is sown in the Bruin fields before the crop is cut. Giram or wheat raised in autumn is sometimes said to be followed by Shali. As the climate does not suit the plant so well, which in addition is liable to be damaged by Rai, its outturn is not so great as it is in Kashmir.

Though the rates of outturn assumed by me would appear to be considerably higher than the results of the experiments made, yet they are fairly below the statements of zamindars. The table below collects all the information.

Assessment circle.	Details.	CLASSES OF SOIL.			
		Pajji.	Bruin.	Awaji.	Das Kharkat.
First ...	By crop experiments	515	527	...	...
	As stated by zamindars	729	583	583	...
	Assumed at Settlement	775	...	...	...
	Assumed now	600	560	560	350

68. MAIZE.—Next in importance to wheat comes the Kharif crop of maize.

1st Circle
2nd Circle
3rd Circle
Tahsil

... 25
... 72
... 18
... 148

It is used both as human and animal food and is liked by the Gilgitis and Astoris, though the Baltis, whose favourite food is giram, think of maize flour as an indigestible article of food.

(i) White maize usually succeeds wheat or giram in the 1st class villages. It takes longer to mature, but its outturn is the largest of all the varieties on account of the grain being comparatively more bulky.

(ii) Reddish maize, the second variety takes rather less time to mature. It generally succeeds giram in the less warm villages, where the time left for Kharif crop is not enough to let the white variety mature. It is also grown as an ekfasli crop in the colder estates of second circles.

(iii) The third variety is the smallest reddish grain. The stalks and cobs of the plant are small, the grain is light, and the consequent outturn very low. Its seed is said to have been imported from Kel by Gujars who inhabit the upper parts of the cold valleys. This variety takes 45 to 60 days to ripen.

Maize lands are usually manured, and well attended to. It is mostly the second crop grown after wheat or giram in lands of good quality manured at the time the Rabi crop of wheat or giram is grown. It does not flourish well in the lands having shallow layers of earth.

The crop is sometimes damaged by insects, as well as by heavy winds of August causing the plant fall down. The outturn as stated by the zamindars is very high. The result of only one experiment in the second circle cannot be relied on. But taking all the facts into consideration I have assumed the following rates of yield.

Assessment Circle.	Details.	CLASSES OF SOIL.				
		Paji.	Bruin.	Awaji.	Das Kharkat.	Niral.
First	By crop experiments	670	...	733	...	...
	As stated by zamindars	781	...	625	...	...
	Assumed in Skardu	360	...	300	...	...
	Assumed at Settlement	525	...	263	...	...
	Assumed now	580	470	470	340	380
Second	By crop experiments	188	...	...	...	...
	As stated by zamindars	582	...	466	...	...
	Assumed in Skardu	360	...	300	...	...
	Assumed at Settlement	490	...	245	...	...
	Assumed now	530	...	440	340	...
Third	Assumed at Settlement	375	...	188	...	...
	Assumed now	460	...	380	330	...

69. CHINA AND KANGANI.—Are almost equal in value and outturn.

As ekfasli crops they grow by way of rotation. Generally they succeed giram in the 2nd : class villages, where the remaining part of summer after harvesting wheat is not long enough for maize to grow and mature. In the first class villages wheat and giram, if sown in manured lands, are generally succeeded by maize, otherwise by china and kangani. China and kangani do not flourish well in the Das and Kharkat soils, though manuring is not indispensable for these crops. They are liable to be damaged by cold and sparrows, which play the chief part in diminishing the yield by attacking the crops in large number.

Only one experiment on the crop has been made in the first circle, no weight can therefore be attached to its result. The outturn assumed by me is a little below that stated by zamindars, and appears to be fair.

The table below collects the information bearing on the matter:—

Assessment circle.	Details.	CLASSES OF SOIL.			
		Paji.	Awaji.	Das and Kharkat.	Naril.
FIRST	By crop experiments	234	...	...	...
	As stated by zamindars	560	448	...	...
	Assumed in Skardu	420	350	260	270
	Assumed at Settlement	650	325	...	...
	Assumed now	500	410	270	340
SECOND	By crop experiments	379	782	...	...
	As stated by zamindars	461	389	...	...
	Assumed in Skardu	415	345	255	...
	Assumed at Settlement	555	278	...	...
	Assumed now	460	380	270	320
THIRD	Assumed in Skardu	395	330	230	...
	Assumed at Settlement	450	225	...	...
	Assumed now	410	340	250	...

70. TRUMBA.—The Kharif crop of trumba (buck-wheat) is of little

importance in Gilgit. It is mostly produced in Astore, where in less cold estates it follows giram as Kharif crop, but its yield is rather less than that of Rabi crop. The Rabi trumba is grown in the ekfasli villages, in the lands which have been under two or more consecutive crops of wheat and giram. The plant sometimes turns pale, and its outturn becomes considerably low being damaged by cold winds, if winter sets in early.

Trumba is of two varieties (i). "Mori-bro," (ii). "Tsite-bro."

The former is better in popular estimation, and is not eaten without mixing with wheat flour. The crop is the favourite food of sparrows and bears, and is, therefore, liable to a considerable damage by these pests. Its average outturn is also considerably less than that of other crops.

Only one crop experiment has been made in the 2nd circle, which may be ignored.

The table below, however, gives the necessary information.

Assessment circle.	Details.	CLASSES OF SOILS.			
		Paji.	Awaji.	Das Kharkat	Niral.
FIRST	As stated by zamindars	390	312	...	...
	Assumed in Skardu	285	240	...	...
	Assumed at Settlement	440	220	...	...
	Assumed now	330	280	...	...
SECOND	By crop experiments	945	...	...	...
	As stated by zamindars	380	300	...	...
	Assumed in Skardu	280	235	170	175
	Assumed at Settlement	418	215	...	...
THIRD	Assumed now	320	270	170	210
	As stated by zamindars	336	269	175	...
	Assumed in Skardu	280	235	170	175
	Assumed at Settlement	317	175	...	...
	Assumed now	280	240	170	180

71. MASH AND MUNG.—Are about equal in value

Mash.
 1st Circle ... 8.1 and outturn. They are grown largely in the 1st circle, 2nd " ... 9 where hot climate suite their growth. As ekfasli crop they 3rd " ... 4.1 are mostly grown in poor soils of Das and Kharkat. They Tahsil" ...
Mung.
 1st Circle ... 3.8 also succeed wheat as a rotation crop in poor soils, which 2nd " ... 1 are unable to bear maize in Kharkat. The crop is not 3rd " ... 1.9 valued much, and the peasant does not properly attend to it. Tahsil"

The rates of yield assumed are as below :—

Assessment circle.	Details.	CLASSES OF SOIL.		
		Paji.	Awaji.	Das Kharkat.
FIRST	By crop experiment	Mash ... 137	...	...
		Mung ... 295	...	...
	As stated by zamindars	Mash ...	...	197
		Mung ...	...	...
SECOND	Assumed at Skardu	Mash ... 500	300	...
		Mung ... 240	200	180
	Assumed now	Mash ... 230	190	170
		Mung ... 220	180	...

72. PULSES consist of mattar, ghars, bakla, massur and lobiya. The 1st : three are either grown separately, or mixed with wheat. 2nd Circle ... 3⁸ The pulses mostly grow in the 2nd : and 3rd : class villages. 2nd " ... 9⁶ 3rd " ... 11⁰ Tahsil ... 7⁰ They are also grown by way of rotation in ek-fasli lands and yield almost equally. They do not stand in need of manuring, and are at times damaged by cold and insects. The experiments made on the area under these crops are few, and the results obtained are not fair.

The rates of yields assumed are as below :—

Assessment Circle.	Details.	CLASSES OF SOILS.			
		Paji.	Awaji and Shini.	Kharkat Das.	Niral.
First	By crop experiment	...	...	232	...
	As stated by zamindars	600	480	...	...
	Assumed in Skardu	430	360	270	280
	Assumed at Settlement	690	345	...	...
	Assumed now	470	380	280	310
Second	By crop experiment	591	960	324	...
	As stated by zamindars	580	464	...	...
	Assumed in Skardu	425	355	265	275
	Assumed at Settlement	658	329	...	...
	Assumed now	440	350	280	300
Third	By crop experiments	...	757	...	...
	As stated by zamindars	427	...	342	...
	Assumed in Skardu	400	330	250	250
	Assumed at Settlement	550	275	...	...
	Assumed now	395	225	260	285

73. MOTHI.—"Kulth" is also one of the grains produced in the country. It is not however, valued much, and is grown on the inferior lands in the warm estates, simply with a view to get something out of the lands. The plant very much resembles that of mung, but its yield is far less than that of the latter. It serves as a fodder crop, and its grain is mostly consumed by sheep and goats.

The following yields have been assumed in this case :—

Assessment circle.	Details.	CLASSES OF SOILS.			
		Paji.	Awaji.	Das Kharkat.	Niral.
First	As stated by zamindars	200	160	...	...
	Assumed at Settlement	500	300	...	...
	Assumed now	180	150	120	140
Second	Assumed at Settlement	...	250	...	...
	Assumed now	175	145	115	...

74. COTTON. The area under cotton is only 11 acres in the 1st class villages. No experiments on the crop were made. I have simply to rely upon statements of the zamindars, who estimate the produce per acre of this crop at 90 seers for Paji and 75 seers for Awaji. Cotton does not grow so well here as it does in the Punjab. The plant remains small in size, and the outturn is consequently low. My assumptions are therefore as under :—

Paji	100 seers }	per acre.
Awaji }	80 seers }	
Das		

The value of the produce per acre at 6½ seers per rupee amounts to Rs. 15 for Paji, and Rs. 12 for Awaji and Das.

75. TOBACCO. Tobacco occupies only one acre in the 1st circle, and calls for no remarks. I assume Rs. 30 for this crop.

76. RISHKA and SHAFTAL. Rishka is the chief fodder crop of the District, it is of great use for feeding livestock during dreary months of winter. It is sown generally in Awaji lands of the Gilgit valley, where its produce is regarded as more profitable than grains, as the wild grass on hill sides is scanty there. But in Astore it is generally grown on inferior lands, often mixed with other kinds of grass. There it is not better looked after than the "Ul" of Baltistan and Ladakh. Rishka seed once sown continues to yield crop for about six years, but the acclimatized seed might be giving crop even for a longer time. In the first class estates the crop is harvested four times during summer. Produce goes on diminishing with the advance of years, and is considerably reduced during the last two years.

Shaftal covers only 44 acres, or 3 per cent of the total cultivation. It is also a fodder crop, and its cultivation is limited only to a few estates of the first circle, where natural grass on the hill sides is not available. It does best in Paji and Bruin soils. It is harvested thrice in summer, and its seed also goes on sprouting in some succeeding years.

As Rishka and Shaftal are both fodder crops, it seems rather unfair to assess them. But many villages along the Gilgit-Bandipur road, where they are largely sown, make money by their sale to the owners of transport animals, and to the officials of the District. In view of the above facts it seems proper that part of their produce may be assessed. It is reasonable to leave 2/3 of the crops to the people, and assess 1/3 of them as was done in case of "Ul" in the Ladakh District.

One crop experiment has been made only on rishka crop in the second circle, the outturn being 1671 seers per acre.

I have discussed the average yield with the local officers and leading zamindars.

The outturn of Shaftal does not differ much from that of rishka, and the value of the produce is the same.

My assumption for both the crops are as below :—

1st Circle	...	...	1200
2nd do	...	...	900
3rd do	...	...	600

1st Circle
2nd "
3rd "
Tahsil

4.1
4.0
1.7
3.8

77. OTHER CROPS. The other crops are :—

(i) Vegetables.

(ii) Mewa.

Vegetables are 177 acres in the Tahsil. They consist of turnips, onions, potatoes, cucumbers, musk melons, water melons, chillies, carrots, cabbages, cauliflowers etc. The area under turnips is 50 acres, which is mostly sown in Kharif. Turnips are sown after giram in the second circle, but in certain warmer estates they succeed wheat as well. Their cultivation is limited to fields close to houses, and they are generally used as vegetables. The turnips of cold villages are more valued for their good taste. All these vegetables are mostly consumed at home, only a very small part being sold.

Bagh covers 310 acres in the Tahsil. The fruit trees in the cultivated area may not be assessed, as the shade and roots of the trees injure the growth of crops ; but fruit grown on Bagh is valuable.

For the purposes of produce estimate I assume Rs. 12, Rs. 8 and Rs. 6, as the average price of an acre of these crops in the 1st 2nd and 3rd circles respectively.

CHAPTER.—V.

PRICES.

78. The people of the District are now safe from the raids plundering and from being carried away into slavery. The peaceful state of things has conferred upon them security, and has given a start to Gilgit which is becoming the centre of trade of this part of the Hindu Kush. The Regular Settlement of 1950 offered as much inducement to the people to settle as it did in any other part of the State. The people are not prosperous, but they enjoy the fruit of their labour, and have more grain to live upon and sell, than they had before Settlement. But the situation is a peculiar one in Gilgit, which produces surplus of grain, and has little non-agricultural population to purchase. Some of the estates having large cultivation, but sparsely populated, can dispose of their surplus grain to the more densely populated estates of the District.

The grain dealer is rare in the tract, and wherever he is, he buys grain from the zamindars mostly for his own requirements for money previously advanced. The Supply and Transport Department is the only grain dealer on a large scale. No other export or internal trade worth the name is carried on, though grain is sold to a small extent in Gilgit. The grain purchased by the Commissariat Department at the Khush-Kharid and Hukmi rates and collections of the revenue in grain, amount to about 11,069 maunds a year.

2. The data for assuming commutation prices are very meagre and unreliable. The Bazar rates published in the Gazette are available for 15 years, i.e. from 1958 to 1972.

The figures of advance prices for 1953 to 1972 have been reported by the Tahsildar only for the Gilgit ilaka. In Astore there is no system of giving money in advance for purchase of grain.

The following table shows in annas per maund the average rates of grain purchased by the Supply and Transport Department and the shopkeepers, the record of harvest prices having not been kept in Tahsil or Wazarat.

STAPLES.	C A S H.						ADVANCE RATES (1953 TO 1972) SHOP-KEEPERS.	AVERAGE RATE TAKING 1-3 AT ADVANCE & 2-3 AT CASH RATES.		
	KHUSH-KHARID RATES 1907 to 1916,		BAZAR RATES 1958 to 1972.		AVERAGE.					
	Gilgit.	Astore.	Gilgit.	Astore.	Gilgit.	Astore.		Gilgit.	Astore.	
Shali	...	...	...	...	...	...	64	64	...
Wheat	62	68	56	58	59	63	58	59	63	
Giram and Barley	46	52	54	56	50	54	40	47	54	
Maize	46	50	54	52	50	51	42	47	51	
China	...	...	...	...	...	...	26	26	...
Mong	64	68	78	90	71	79	56	66	79	
Mash	60	62	66	106	63	84	56	60	84	
Mallar	...	...	...	...	...	...	30	30	...
Bakla and Lobiya	...	...	...	...	...	...	32	32	...
Potatoes	46	50	64	50	55	50	...	55	50	
Rishks	12	10	14	...	13	10	...	13	10	

The Khush-Kharid rates of the grain purchased by the Supply and Transport Department are fixed by the Political Agent almost every year without consulting zamindars. There being practically no free market in the District, the prices fixed cannot be regarded as having been based on the principles of supply and demand.

In the year 1913 the Political Agent proposed that the part of the revenue paid by the zamindars in grain should in future be commuted to cash, but that the zamindars should continue to pay to the Commissariat the amount of grain they are paying at present in part payment of the revenue, and should receive from that Department cash payment for the grain so delivered at full Khush Kharid rates. He remarked, however, that the people would be enormous gainers and the Government proportionate loser in this bargain as the rates at which the revenue is collected are far lower than the Khush-Kharid rates. For this reason he suggested that the payment to the revenue should be made at Rs. 2/8/-per maund for wheat and dal, and Rs. 2/-per maund for Indian corn and barley. The proposal received the sanction of His Highness the Maharaja Sahib Bahadur, but the matter was afterwards postponed till Settlement.

Baseless as the material is for working out the prices in this district, I have to rely upon my own knowledge of the tract, supplemented by the opinion of the local officers and leading local zamindars in assuming the prices. Taking all the circumstances into consideration, I propose the following commutation prices for each kind of grain to be used in the produce estimates.

Staples.	Rate per rupee (seers).	Rate per maund in annas.	Staples.	Rate per rupee (seers).	Rate per maund in annas.		
Wheat Shali Mung Mash Massur }	...	16	40	Maize Mattar Ghars Bakla Lobiya }	...	20	32
Giram and Barley }	...	18	36	China Kangani }	...	26½	24
Trumba and Mothi }	...	32	20	Cotton Rishka }	...	6½	96 10

The area under Potatoes is insignificant in the Tahsil, being only 7 acres. It has been considered under vegetables.

I would somewhat raise these prices, when the time for valuing the revenue and the Hukmi-Kharid grain comes, in order to make some allowance for the inconvenience, cost of carriage and loss which seem to be unavoidable accompaniment of Official dealings in grain, which has to be carried to the places fixed by the officials for its payment at the cost of the peasant.

The prices in Astore are a little higher than those prevailing in Gilgit ; but the difference is very small and may safely be ignored in fixing the commutation prices for calculating the value of produce for assessment purposes, I have, therefore, proposed uniform rates for both the ilakas.

As regards the precise amount of the rise in prices since Settlement, it is difficult to form any reliable opinion, as the prices fixed at the last Settlement are so unreliable that they can not be taken as a guide for purposes of comparison. Moreover, the rise, if it can be so termed, is of small importance, as it means no difference to the zamindars, who have little surplus grain to dispose of after paying the dues of the Commissariat Department. For these reasons I am not going to compare the rise or fall in prices since Settlement. It may, however, be said with certainty that prices in whatever form they exist have considerably risen since Settlement.

Whilst sanctioning these prices the Settlement Commissioner remarked as below vide his letter No. 8093, dated 31st : May 1916, to my address.

"The data available are chiefly the Khush-Kharid rates which are not market prices, but are fixed from time to time by order; there are also the Bazar rates, and in Gilgit advance rates paid by shopkeepers, both of which, I believe, are based on small transactions, and are considerably influenced by the official rates. All three sets of rates relate to different periods, varying from 10 to 20 years past, and to take their arithmetical average, as you have done in the statement, is a course open to criticism, but the truth is that there are no reliable data, and it does not matter much how those available are dealt with.

"In assuming your commutation prices you seem to have disregarded to a great extent the data referred to (which would give much higher rates), and to have been largely influenced by the rates proposed by the Political Agent in 1903, confirmed by your own local knowledge and enquiries.

"This being the case I see no reason for altering your rates, and have informed you by telegram that they may be used for the produce estimate. Probably they are low, but it will be easier to judge of their fairness, when you come to propose your rates for the valuation of revenue and Kharid grain."

CHAPTER VI.

RENTS AND STANDARD OF ASSESSMENT,

79. The details of cultivated area held in different tenures may be seen from the Statement No. VII appended to the Report, but cultivating occupancy. the more salient features of the cultivating occupancy are given in the following summary.

	DETAILS.	First.	Second.	Third.	Tahsil.
					5
	I				
	No. of villages	29	27	24	80
Total area	Khalsa	9332	13387	7790	30509
	In others' possession	8437	9066	5212	22715
	Cultivated area	6128	5128	1892	13148
Khud kasht of assamis and Chakdars.	Area	5617	4655	1514	11786
	Percentage	91.6	90.8	80.0	89.6
Under cultivation of tenants free of rent or paying nominal rents.	Area	92	22	53	167
	Percentage	1.5	1.4	2.8	1.3
Under cultivation of tenants paying rents.	Village revenue rates	18	9	2	29
	Area	18	9	2	29
	Percentage	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.2
	Rents in kind with or without cash.	...	5.5	...	6.3
	Area	...	1.2	...	0.5
	Percentage	...	...	...	...
	Batai $\frac{1}{2}$	37	...	...	37
	Area	37	...	...	37
	Percentage	1.7	...	...	1.3
	Village revenue rate	208	205	118	531
Tenants-at-will	Area	208	205	118	531
	Percentage	5.4	4.0	6.3	4.0
	Cash rents	29	5	165	199
	Area	29	5	165	199
	Percentage	1.5	1.1	8.7	1.5
Tenants-at-will	Rent in kind with or without cash.	16	51	1	0.8
	Area	16	51	1	0.8
	Percentage	1.3	1.0	...	1.5
	Batai $\frac{1}{2}$	146	81	36	263
	Area	146	81	36	263
	Percentage	2.4	1.6	1.9	2
	Batai $\frac{3}{4}$	2	...	3	5
	Area	2	...	3	5
	Percentage	...	...	1.2	1.1
Total	Area	419	451	325	1195
	Percentage	6.9	8.8	17.2	9.1

The Gilgit District, in the main, is a tract of peasant land holders tilling their own fields, and bulk of the land is cultivated by the petty assamis themselves. The Khudkasht area is 89.6 per cent of the total cultivation. The low percentage of Khudkasht area in the 3rd circle is due partly to the two Jagir villages being entirely cultivated by tenants, and partly to some new tenants-at-will who have settled in the Kamri valley of the Astore ilaka, and have not been given assami rights as yet. Tenants at-will paying cash rents on land irrespective of the crops grown hold 199 acres, or 1.5 per cent of the cultivation. Tenants (with or without rights of occupancy) paying rents in kind hold 3.3 per cent of the cultivation.

80. Cash, and fixed kind rents give no assistance at all. For what Cash, and fixed kind rents they are worth, they are shown in the table below; the rents for 310 acres being for mixed soils are left out of calculation.

Assessment circle.	Soils.	CASH RENT			KIND RENT			Rate per acre.
		Area.	Rent.	Rate per acre.	Area.	Rent reduced into cash at assumed rates		
1ST. CIRCLE.	Paji	...	...	...	16 14	112 4 0	53 12 4	
	Awaji	11 15	67 0 0	45 9 10	...	17 1 3 7	11 8 4	
	Ishpati	4 16	5 8 0	9 2 8	...	...	...
2ND. CIRCLE.	Paji	5 4	2 0 0	3 1 3	...	...	...
	Awaji	9 12	3 4 3	2 11 6	14 8	4 4 6	2 6 1	
	Das	3 5	4 8 0	11 1 3	...	...	...
	Ishpati	3 3	5 0 0	12 11 2	...	...	...
3RD. CIRCLE.	Awaji	72 19	35 8 0	3 14 3	7 2	10 11 0	12 0 8	
	Das	9 2	6 0 0	5 4 5	...	...	...
	Paji	5 4	2 0 0	3 1 3	16 14	112 4 0	53 12 4	
TOTAL.	Awaji	94 6	105 12 3	8 15 7	22 7	16 3 1	5 12 9	
	Das	12 7	10 8 0	6 12 10	...	...	...
	Ishpati	7 19	10 8 0	10 9 1	...	...	...

The area under cash and kind rent is negligible being about 20 acres or 2 per cent of the cultivation. Most of the rents have on examination been found to be nearly equal to the revenue due from the land for which they are paid. The two high figures of rents are those for which the Commissariat Department is responsible to pay the rent for the use of land held by it

Some figures may be considered more or less normal but the result based on the rents of so small area cannot be of much value.

81. From a reference to the table given under para 79 of this report it would be seen that the area of land held by tenants paying batai rents. half the gross produce as rent in kind is 2.3 per cent of the total cultivation and compared with other tenures it is the largest figure. Such being the case there would have been no other alternative but to assume batai rents as the basis of assessments. The land for which the rent at $\frac{3}{4}$ the produce is paid is negligible being only 5 acres. In the district, however, where the right of ownership of the land is vested in the State it is needless to discuss batai rents. A fixed portion of the gross produce will therefore, be taken at the standard of assessments.

82. The agriculture Kamins are blacksmiths and carpenters. Something is paid to the "Mullas" and "Mons," but they are not agricultural menials, and it seems needless to deduct any- Agricultural Kamins.

thing for them. The agricultural Kamins are paid at an average of $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent of the gross produce in this tract as worked out by me.

83. The cattle subsist mostly on wild grass, but fodder crops are also raised and stocked for use in winter. The area held by Fodder deductions. each tenant paying batai rent is usually very small, and the assamis, therefore, do not allow their tenants to devote part of tenancy holdings to raising of fodder. It appears unnecessary to make any deductions for fodder, but I do not see my way, for the reasons given in the assessment reports of the Ladakh District, to depart from the rule followed there, and I have deducted $\frac{2}{3}$ of rishka and shaftal from my produce estimate (para 76).

The straw is generally retained by the tenant who pays his rent at Batai rates. It seems not desirable to include the value of the straw of grain crops in the produce estimates.

84. The State is entitled to a share of the produce of the land fixed from time to time by itself. The exact share to be taken is a The standard of assessment. question to be settled according to the circumstances of the tract under Settlement.

In the Punjab the general principle of assessment followed is that the Government demand for land revenue shall not exceed the estimated value of half the net produce of an estate. The share of the gross produce adopted at last Settlement by Mr. McHutchin and his Assistant as the standard of assessment was 33 per cent in Astore and 25 per cent in Gilgit. These percentages differ from Kashmir where 30 per cent of the gross produce was taken as a convenient standard, and from the tracts recently settled in the Ladakh District, where the demand of the State is limited to 27 per cent of the gross produce. The status of an assami here is rather low as compared with that of the peasant proprietor of the Punjab, because in Kashmir and Frontier districts the Darbar is the sole proprietor, and is in theory entitled to half of the gross produce of the land.

Gilgit is not dissimilar to the tracts in Ladakh district in its situation on the Frontier and in its physical features. The status of the assami too is almost equal in both the districts. Gilgit can therefore claim an equal treatment with those of tracts of Ladakh which have recently undergone Settlement operations. For these reasons I would take 27 per cent of the gross produce as the standard of assessment for all the circles of the District; the reasons for adopting this standard having been explained in my Assessment Report of Kargil Tahsil. It may, however, be remarked that the standard of assessment has not been strictly followed in the recent Settlements of Kashmir and Ladakh, and is impracticable in the initial stages of civilization in these tracts as well. It is not therefore, of great importance as a guide in assessing the tract under report. The standard soil and crop rates (Statement No. XI) are given in the table below, Kharaba being taken into consideration in assuming the yields:—

DETAILS.		CLASSES OF SOILS.									
Circle.		Rates.	Paji.	Brun.	Awaji.	Shini.	Das Kharkat.	Niral	Ishpati.	Bagh.	All round rates.
1st	Soil	... 12 3 1	Rs. a. p. 9 8 2	Rs. a. p. 7 0 1	Rs. a. p. 4 13 10	Rs. a. p. 2 1 8	Rs. a. p. 3 5 11	Rs. a. p. 2 15 6	Rs. a. p. 3 3 1	Rs. a. p. 6 1 2	Rs. a. p.
	Crop	... 7 7 4	8 3 2	5 10 9	3 3 1	3 10 5	4 15 5	1 10 7	3 3 1	5 7 10	
2nd	Soil	... 7 2 6	... 4 9 4	2 10 11	2 6 0	3 13 1	1 1 6	2 2 1	4 8 0		
	Crop	... 6 0 0	... 4 15 7	2 4 2	3 11 9	4 6 11	1 3 11	2 2 1	4 12 3		
3rd	Soil	... 5 13 0	... 4 10 2	1 9 7 2 8	9 3 8 0	0 13 7	1 9 7	4 7 3			
	Crop	... 5 14 1	... 4 12 7	1 9 7 3 8 5	3 15 3 0 13 4	1 9 7	4 12 1				

These rates are high and I would not assess the tract under report upto these rates for the reasons given below :—

- (i) The tract is possessed of certain disadvantages peculiar to it, and some weight should be attached to political considerations, in fixing the land revenue in the tract.
- (ii) The sources of income such as trade and service are very limited, and the land holders depend solely on the tillage of the soil.
- (iii) The hired labour employed in agriculture is not considerable, but in certain villages of Gilgit Baltis are employed to help in cultivation of the land.
- (iv) Men, women and children work in the fields, because they have nothing but agriculture to depend upon. They have every right to be fed and clothed, and the surplus produce, over and above what is required for the support for rural population, is hardly enough even for the payment of the revenue in grain, there being practically little surplus grain to be sold in the market.
- (v) The water courses on which the cultivation of the tract entirely depends are occasionally swept away, and the hard labour on irrigation channels and retaining walls of terraced fields should not be ignored.
- (vi) Seed is unsparingly sown.
- (vii) The people pay their revenue partly in grain, which tells heavily upon them, and they are subjected to forced labour (Kai-begar,) which is keenly felt by them.
- (viii) The neighbouring tracts of Gilgit placed under the control of the Political Agent are very leniently taxed, and any attempt to heavy assessment in the tahsil would look rather unfair.
- (ix) The rise in prices will form the basis of present enhancement, as also the fact that the State forewent at Settlement much of its

share in favour of its people. The small income from fruit, the areas newly broken up, and those that have been quitted since Settlement, will no doubt be taken into consideration.

85. The total grain produce of the tract under report may be seen from the table below; the produce of turnips, vegetables and fruits having been left out of account:—

Assessment circle.	GRAIN PRODUCE ESTIMATE IN MAUNDS.							
	Wheat.	Girni and Barley.	Maize.	Shali.	China and Kangni.	Trumba	Pulses.	Total.
First ...	26666	2851	19845	1551	1991	15	6040	58959
Second ...	14674	7600	4465	...	4903	3060	4906	39608
Third ...	5876	4700	349	...	591	845	1666	14027
Total ...	47216	15151	24659	1551	7485	3920	12612	112594

Deductions admissible for seed, food of the live-stock, and other miscellaneous expenses of grain, have been taken roughly to amount to 10 per cent of the total produce, and the balance thus comes to 101334 maunds. The population, excluding the troops and public servants receiving their rations from the Supply and Transport Department, consists of 12154 adults and 6093 children, infants below five years of age consuming grain in an insignificant quantity being also excluded from these calculations. It is difficult to furnish any reliable estimate of the consumption of food grains by the rural population of the district. Vegetables and other greens, as well as flesh of animals, form part of the food of the people everywhere, and margin may be allowed for these articles in calculating the consumptions of staple food grains, to arrive at useful results. The people here are very frugal in the expenditure of grains. Their chief food consists of maize and other inferior products of the country, which being more indigestible than wheat and other cereals are consumed in a comparatively less quantity. Wheat being lighter food is eaten generally by well-to-do persons, the poor people usually dispensing with it as far as possible. Taking, therefore all the circumstances into consideration, I have estimated their food to be at 6 maunds per head adult both men and women, and 3 maunds per head children above 5 years of age. The total quantity of grain thus consumed, and the surplus and deficit produce of the tract, is calculated below:—

Assessment Circles.	Total produce.	EXPENDITURE OF GRAIN.			PRODUCE.		DETAILS OF ADULTS AND CHILDREN.	
		Consumed by people.	Seed and other expenses.	Total.	Surplus.	Deficit.	Adults.	Children.
1st ...	58959	37659	5896	43555	15404	...	5185	2183
2nd ...	39608	39339	3961	43300	...	3692	5121	2871
3rd ...	14027	14196	1403	15599	...	1572	1848	1036
Total ...	112594	91194	11260	102454	10140	...	12154	6090

Isolated as the tract is, it would have been self supporting, had it not been for the heavy demand of grain from the Supply and Transport Department. There is practically no trade in grains in these parts, although such of the grains as are not (or insufficiently) produced locally such as rice etc., have to be imported to some extent. As would appear from the foregoing table, the surplus in the first circle is fairly large, and is sufficient to pay the revenue in kind. The people of these villages, however, are ease loving and their chances of earning money are far less than those of the villages placed in the second and third circles, which have got facilities of keeping hiring ponies in large numbers. In Gilgit villages placed in the first circle food is plentiful from July to February, after which a greater part of the population is driven to live on cheaper grains supplemented by dried-fruits, as they have to dispose of their dearer grains for payment of revenue and defraying other household expenses. The above table also shows that there is a deficit of grain in the 2nd : and 3rd : circles. This deficit is generally made up by importing grains from neighbouring estates, or from Kashmir.



CHAPTER—VII.

ASSESSMENTS.

Summary of Statistics.

86. The more important statistics are summarized below :—

DETAILS.	1st circle.	2nd circle.	3rd circle.	Tahsil.
Increase in cultivated area since Settlement ..	26.2	31.7	79.2	34.1
Since Settlement ... { Chaks ... Nautor ...	1276 598	1119 385	605 278	3000 1261
Percentage on cultivation of. { Dillasli ... Kharaba ...	32.0 3.1	10.3 1.7	1.2 1.0	18.9 2.7
Important crops ... { Wheat ... Giram and Barley ... Maize ... (On area cultivated) ... { China and Kangani ... Masn and Mung ...	44.6 4.3 25 3.1 11.9	32.2 15.4 7.2 10.1 1.0	37.2 27.7 1.8 3.5 ...	38.7 12.0 14.8 5.9 6
Population per square mile { Cropped ... Cultivated ...	843.17 933.16	1318.07 1244.55	1307.1 1223.51	1076.17 1096.39
Cultivation per plough ...	5	4.9	4.6	4.9
Area per holding ... { Total ... Khudkash ...	2.1 2.4	2.2 2.5	1.9 2.3	2.1 2.4
Per 100 acres cultivated ... { Sheep and goats ... Other domestic animals ... Mature Fruit ...	368.5 110.7 891.8	692.8 104.3 493.9	780.8 153.7 70.7	554.3 114.4 618.5
Revenue { Current ... Incidence per acre ...	Rs. Rs.	10864 1.12-11	12129 2.6-9	3641 2.1-0
				26634 2.1-4

87. This circle has been described briefly in para 8.
First Circle.

It consists most of the villages of the ilaka of Gilgit, Haramosh, and Sai. It may be compared with the 1st circle of Skardu, though its aspect is somewhat different, and no part of it produces so good and valuable a fruit as does the Skardu first circle. The soil, though sandy in parts, is better than that of Skardu on the whole; and the summer season being longer better crops are raised here.

The population is, however, of moderate density for a mountainous tract, being 933.16 souls per square mile cultivated against 2223.4 souls in Skardu. There is still enough margin for extension and improvement in cultivation in course of time.

With the exception of a few villages, where water is insufficient for the large amount of land brought under cultivation, irrigation in this circle is generally plentiful, it being interwoven with the net work of streamlets and hill torrents of pure boulder beds.

There is little risk of any extensive failure of crops, which are, however, liable to be affected by rai and insects of various kinds, and the damage done is sometimes great,

The people helped by the females devote a fair amount of attention to their crops, and the crops they mature are sufficient to maintain them throughout

the year as well as to pay their revenue in kind and cash. But they are not well-off, and are less prosperous than holders of the second circle. They are not active thrifty and industrious people.

Revenue rates proposed. 88. The following statement shows the revenue rates proposed :—

Soils.	Area in acres.	Revenue rates proposed.	Resulting amount.
Paji	1210	Rs. a. p. 4 8 0	Rs. a. p. 5445 0 0
Bruin	75	4 0 0	300 0 0
Awaji	2204	3 8 0	7714 0 0
Shini	21	2 12 0	57 12 0
Das-Kharkat	1937	1 8 0	2905 0 0
Niral	212	2 4 0	477 0 0
Ishpati	297	0 12 0	222 12 0
Bagh	172	2 0 0	344 0 0
Ghas	35	0 8 0	17 8 0
Total	6163	2 13 5	17483 8 0

The table below collects all the information bearing on the fairness of rates proposed.

Soils.	STANDARD RATES.		Skardu.	GILGIT.	
	Soil.	Cropped.		Proposed rate	Crop rates.
Paji	Rs. a. p. 12 3 1	Rs. a. p. 7 7 4	Rs. a. p. 4 12 0	Rs. a. p. 4 8 0	Rs. a. p. 2 12 1
Bruin	9 8 2	8 3 2	...	4 0 0	3 7 2
Awaji	7 0 1	5 10 9	4 0 0	3 8 0	2 13 4
Shini	4 13 10	3 3 1	3 6 0	2 12 0	1 12 11
Das-Kharkat	2 1 8	3 10 5	1 10 0	1 8 0	2 9 7
Niral	3 5 11	4 15 5	2 4 0	2 4 0	3 5 0
Ishpati	2 15 6	1 10 7	0 2 0	0 12 0	0 6 9
Bagh	3 3 1	3 3 1	3 2 0	2 0 0	2 0 0
Ghas	...	...	...	0 8 0	...
All round rates	6 1 2	5 7 10	3 6 8	2 13 5	2 9 2

The old rates of cultivation cannot be compared, owing to different villages having been grouped in different Assessment circles at the last and the current Settlement. Ghas rates of Settlement are too high, varying from -/8/- to -/12/- in the 1st circle, and -/12/- to 1/8/- in the second, and -/9/- to -/12/- in the third circle ; they cannot therefore be adopted.

The Paji of Gilgit does not differ much from the Maljing of Skardu, but the Awaji is much more extensive than Barsad of Skardu, and receives less manure consequently. The Shini (Sagzar) is of little importance, and Das-Kharkat lands are decidedly better than Das of Skardu. The Niral of Gilgit does not

differ much from the Bruk of Skardu, and Ishpati (Lucern) is certainly better than wild Ul of Skardu.

The rates are lower than those in Skardu. To a great extent, this is due to the large number of fruit trees in Skardu, where the pressure of population is heavy, and cultivation and fruit trees are more carefully looked after.

Pieces of land growing wild grass are reserved by the people, and they are recorded as "Banjar-Kadim ghas" in the village records. Grass is cut and stored for winter use, and is highly valued. I would assess "ghas" at 8/- per acre in the circle.

Assessments proposed. 89. The Assessments proposed are shown below:—

	Rs.
(1) Current revenue	... ... ... 10,864
(2) Standard Assessment	... ... ... 37,226
(3) Assessment by revenue rates	... ... ... 17,484
(4) Assessment proposed	... ... ... 17,765

including Rs. 18 for grass.

The proposed demand excluding grass is 47·7 per cent. of the standard assessment, which is calculated at full rates. The assessments now proposed are the result of my personal enquiries in respect of the jama that each village can pay. The reasons for departing from the standard assessment are given in para (84) of the Report. The people are, moreover, obliged to supply milk fowls and eggs to the Military and Civil Officers employed in Gilgit and Bunji, and the rates paid under official pressure are hardly remunerative to the people.

The late Resident in Kashmir (Hon'ble Mr. S. M. Fraser C.S.I., C.I.E.) in his tour diary of August-September 1913 remarked:—

"The present rates paid for fowls and milk do not seem low, but it is clear that they cannot really remunerate the people, or such continued official pressure would not be necessary to obtain supplies. I doubt whether the people can make any profit, and if in fact they are not in reality feeding the Government troops at less than cost price to themselves. If the system cannot be improved upon, then this fact should be borne in mind at the revision of Settlement, and allowances be made accordingly in the Revenue rates."

* * * *

"It was generally admitted that the present system of indenting upon the village through the revenue authorities for milk, fowls and eggs both for Military and Civil establishments, is a hardship to the people. But no one was able to suggest any substitute for this system in the present condition of the country, and all that could be said was that the burden is lighter now than before, and one to which the people of the country are so accustomed as to feel it no hardship. If this be so, the only conclusion is that this form of begar should be formally recognised, and should be considered when the re-assessment of the land takes place at the revision Settlement."

The above figures show an increase of 63·5 per cent in the present cash assessments. The Kahcharai dues of Rs. 706 (para 97) have been assessed in addition.

The high percentage of increase which appears to have taken place in revenue may not however be ascribed to any actual increase in the revenue of land, but to the enhancement in the commutation rates proposed for revenue in grain. The net result of my proposal may be seen from the statement under para 96 of the report.

90. For a brief account of this circle para (9) may be referred to. The circle consists of 27 villages chiefly in the Bagrot and the Second Circle.

Astore valleys of the Tahsil. It may be compared with the corresponding circle of Skardu, where soil, though more sandy, is better looked after than that in Gilgit. The land here lies low at the bottom of the deep valleys, and is fairly good, though rather stony in parts. The density of population is 1244·5 per square mile of cultivation, against 1034·4 in Skardu.

Water for irrigation is ample. The people cannot devote sufficient attention to their fields owing to heavy pressure of Kar-begar. Cultivation has, however, considerably increased since Settlement, and there is room for further extension as well.

Crops in this circle suffer to some extent from wild beasts, and are not quite safe from the ravages of insects as well. They are insufficient to maintain the people throughout the year, and some grain has invariably to be imported from Kashmir into the Astore villages, while the villages situated in the Gilgit valley have the advantage of purchasing grain from the first class villages of Gilgit, which are fortunate enough to produce surplus grain.

The chief source of income of the people in this circle is the hire of transport animals, as well as live stock. Miscellaneous forest produce also contributes part of the income, but it is not considerable.

The people are fairly well off, and are not under heavy debts. They have good pastures in the adjoining forests, and have more live-stock to depend upon than those of the 1st circle.

Revenue rates proposed. 91. The following statement shows the revenue rates proposed :—

Soils.	Area in acres.	Revenue rates proposed.	Resulting assessments.
Paji	1099	Rs. 4 0 0	Rs. 4,396 0 0
Awajl	2385	3 4 0	775 4 0
Shini	16	2 8 0	40 0 0
Das-Kharkat	773	1 8 0	1159 8 0
Niral	456	2 0 0	912 0 0
Ishpati	263	0 8 0	131 8 0
Bagh	136	1 8 0	204 0 0
Ghus	1406	0 6 0	527 4 0
Total	6534	2 5 0	15121 8 0

The table below collects all the information bearing on the fairness of the rates proposed :—

	STANDARD RATES.		Skardu.	GILGIT.	
	Soil.	Cropped.		Proposed rates.	Crop rates.
Paji	Rs. a. p. 7 2 6	Rs. a. p. 6 0 0	Rs. a. p. 4 4 0	Rs. a. p. 4 0 0	Rs. a. p. 3 5 8
Awaji	4 9 4	4 15 7	3 13 9	3 4 0	3 8 5
Shini	2 10 11	2 4 2	3 2 0	2 8 0	2 1 8
Das-Kharkhat	2 6 0	3 11 9	1 8 0	1 8 0	2 5 8
Niral	3 13 1	4 6 11	2 2 0	2 0 0	2 5 2
Ishpati	1 6 2	1 3 11	0 2 0	0 8 0	0 7 2
Bagh	2 2 1	2 3 1	3 0 0	1 8 0	1 8 0
Ghas	...	...	...	0 6 0	...
All round rates	4 8 0	4 12 3	2 11 6	2 5 0	3 0 3

The remarks made on various kinds of soils given in the first circle equally apply to this circle as well.

The proposed rates are lower than those in the corresponding circle of Skardu, where fruits grown in or along the fields are of great importance, and are the main source of income.

Grass areas serve the purpose of grazing, and supply hay for winter. I would propose 6 per acre for "ghas" in the circle.

92. The table below shows the Assessments proposed :—

		Rs.
(1)	Current revenue	... ... 12129
(2)	Standard assessment	... ... 23071
(3)	Assessment by revenue rates on the cultivated area returned in 1972	... ... 15122
(4)	Assessment by revenue rates on the correct cultivated area returned in 1973	... ... 14415
(5)	Assessment proposed	... ... 13405

The Assessments proposed including Rs. 558 for grass excluding grass are 55.7 per cent of the standard assessment, and are fair for the tract where people are confined to homes for several months of the year, for which they are required to stock fodder and grain for use during that period. Regard is also to be had to the fact that the people who are hardly able to produce grain for their own requirements have to pay part of the revenue in grain. The tract was assessed highly at last Settlement, and though the people have been paying revenue regularly, their complaints against the heavy assessments are well known to those, who have had to deal with them.

The cash revenue proposed is 10·5 per cent more than the present revenue demand. The Kahcharai of Rs. 1110 (para 97) has been levied separately. It may be remarked that the amount of cash revenue has considerably increased, owing to the rise in rates of grain paid in part payment of the revenue, and to ascertain the actual increase or decrease in assessments para 96 of the report may be referred to.

It is also remarkable that there has been a decrease of Rs. 1010 in the proposed assessments in this circle as compared with the assessments by revenue rates. The reason lies in the fact that the village of Danyor has been specially treated in this circle owing to the following circumstances :—

The quality of almost the whole land here is such as cannot produce crops successively. The people, therefore, cultivate only half of it alternatively, leaving other half for cultivation during the next year. The second crop of maize, if raised at all, yields very poor outturn as water available for irrigation of Kharif crops is full of injurious silt which does not allow the crops to grow well. Adding the output of the poor Kharif crops the total area cropped is 68·6 per cent. against 50 per cent in case the Kharif crops' outturn were excluded. Moreover the total area of the village is too extensive for the people to be able to cultivate the whole with success, and the soil is of inferior quality.

93. This circle has been described briefly in para 10. It comprises 24 estates situated on the outskirts of the Tahsil in cold ravines mostly in the Burzil and Kamri valleys of the Astore ilaka. The estates are a little colder than those of the corresponding circle of Skardu, but are somewhat better situated than those of the fourth circle of that Tahsil. The soil is fairly good, and the fields do not so much stand in need of retaining walls, as they do in other circles.

The immigrants from Gurez and Baltistan have formed since Settlement a part of the increased population, which is 1223·5 per square mile of cultivation against 936·8 in the fourth circle of Skardu.

The cultivation here stands at 8000 to 10000 feet above the sea level. The increase in cultivation since Settlement is fairly large and there is still possibility of increase everywhere, except in the lower parts of the valleys, where most of the waste has already been taken up for cultivation.

As in the second circle, the crops matured are not sufficient to maintain the people throughout the year, and hence necessitate importation of grain from Kashmir.

Like their brothers of the 2nd circle the people of the tract cannot give proper attention to their cultivation on account of the burden of Kar-begar, which keeps them absent from home for the greater part of the summer season. The fair sex and children are mainly occupied with grazing of their live-stock, on which the peasant chiefly depend,

Ponies are hired for carriage on the Gilgit-Bandipur road, and constitute the principal item of income to the people. They are moreover, of great help to the administration of the country so far as transport arrangements are concerned.

Pastures are extensive and produce grass luxuriantly. Cattle and flocks are, therefore, numerous. They are taken for sale to Kashmir, or are disposed of locally to itinerant dealers. There is some income from miscellaneous forest produce also which, however, is negligible.

94. The table below shows the revenue rates proposed :—

Revenue rates proposed.

Soils.					Area in acres.	Revenue rates.	Resulting assessments.
						Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Paji	...	...	...	...	426	1 8 0	1065 0 0
Awaji	...	...	...	...	1094	2 0 0	2188 0 0
Shini	...	...	...	...	2	1 10 0	3 4 0
Das-Kharkat	...	...	...	...	288	1 0 0	288 0 0
Niral	...	...	...	...	26	1 4 0	32 0 0
Ishpati	...	...	...	...	54	0 6 0	20 4 0
Bagh	...	...	...	...	2	1 0 0	2 0 0
Ghas	...	...	...	...	2058	0 2 0	257 4 0
Total					3950	0 15 7	3856 4 0

The table below collects all the points bearing the justification of the revenue rates proposed :—

Soils.	STANDARD RATES.			Skardu.	GILGIT.		
	Soil.	Cropped.			Proposed rates.	Crop rates.	
		Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.				
Paji	...	5 13 0	5 14 1	2 14 0	2 8 0	2 8 6	
Awaji	...	4 10 2	4 12 7	2 6 0	2 0 0	2 1 0	
Shini	...	1 9 7	1 9 7	1 14 0	1 10 0	1 10 0	
Das-Kharkat	...	2 8 9	3 8 5	0 12 0	1 0 0	1 6 2	
Niral	...	3 8 0	3 15 3	1 0 0	1 4 0	1 6 7	
Ishpati	...	0 13 7	0 13 4	0 2 0	0 6 0	0 5 11	
Bagh	...	1 9 7	1 9 7	...	1 0 0	1 0 0	
Ghas	0 2 0	1 0 0	
All round rate	...	4 7 3	4 12 1	1 11 6	0 15 7	2 0 6	

Gurez adjoins to the south, the Burzil and Kamri ranges of mountains intervening. Any attempt to compare the rates of Gurez with those proposed for this circle would be abortive, for the apparent reason that the situation, character of agriculture, and cropping of the villages of the two ilakas are at great variance. In Gurez the principal crops are giram, china and maize, whilst in the circle under consideration the most important crop is wheat, being 37.2% of the cultivation. It may also be noted that Gurez being very poor in agriculture was assessed very lightly at the Settlement prior to that of 1905, when enhancement to any very large extent was considered inadvisable.

Grass areas are reserved for grazing and hay for winter. I would put -/2/- on "ghas" in the circle.

The rates proposed are, however, fair for the circle.

95. The assessments proposed are shown below:—

Assessments proposed.

		Rs.
(1).	Current revenue	... 3641
(2).	Standard revenue	... 8425
(3).	Assessment by revenue rates on the cultivated area returned in 1972	... 3856
(4).	Assessment by revenue rates on the correct cultivated area returned in 1973	... 3914
(5).	Assessment proposed	... 4010

(including Rs. 272 for grass)

The proposed demand excluding grass is 44.4 per cent of the standard assessments. The people for this circle are also under obligations to supply milk, butter, meat etc., to the officials travelling on the Gilgit-Bandipur road and to the troops halting at Rattu during the hot months of the summer. The troubles and loss to the people, which always accompany such dealings, should not be lost sight of.

*Rattu was not measured last year. Its figures were received at the time the report was nearing completion. The village has not therefore been included in the statements attached with the report.

The result is an increase of 10.1 per cent in the present revenue. The Kahcharai of Rs. 471 (para 97) is to be taken besides.

The percentage of increase in revenue may be attributed to the fact that the people of some of the villages have to pay part of their revenue in grain and commutation rates have considerably been changed. The actual results of my proposals may be seen from the statement under para (96) of the report.

96. The result of my proposals (paras 87 to 95) may be seen from the statement below:—

Result of assessments.

1	■	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	SETTLEMENT.			CURRENT.			COLLECTION OF HUKMI KHARI (AVERAG.E.)											
Assessment Circle.	Kind.			Value.			Value.																																						
	At present rates.			At proposed rates.			At present rates.			At proposed rates.			At present rates.			At proposed rates.			At present rates.			At proposed rates.			At present rates.																				
First ...	2929	3849	5327	10475	5148	8256	13424	2264	3773	6152	2379	15783	5593	3871	5361	10540	5179	10864	16043	1532	2553	4221	1668	1771	17765	3225	107																		
Second ...	4803	3197	4248	8425	4177	9051	13228	750	1250	2046	796	14024	7919	3171	4210	8362	4152	12129	16281	364	607	1030	423	16704	13405	13	177																		
Third ...	1562	297	378	828	450	1940	2390	...	...	...	...	2390	3263	297	378	828	450	3641	4091	...	...	...	...	...	4091	4010	678									
Tabsil ...	9294	7343	9953	19728	9775	19247	29022	3014	5023	8198	3175	32197	16685	7339	9949	19730	9781	26634	36415	1896	3160	5251	2091	38506	35180	212	34																		

Note.—Hukmi Kharid is proposed to be abolished vide para 102 hence the figures have been left out of calculation in working out the Columns 27 and 28.

Assessment proposed.

Varition as Compared with the demand at Settlement.

Total of Column 20 and 24.

Varition as Compared with the Current demand.

It may be remarked that the Jagir villages of Basin, Hatcho, Das-Khiram and Rattu, which were not surveyed at Settlement, have been measured now and included in the Assessment of the circles as under :—

1. Basin	...	1st	circle
2. Hatcho	...	2nd	circle
3. Das-Khiram	...	3rd	circle
4. Rattu	...	3rd	circle

Partabgarh, a new colony, has increased the revenue of the third circle sanctioned at Settlement to some extent.

97. The history of the pastoral tax imposed in ancient times is given in para 22 of the Report. The subject of the grazing fees was not dealt with at last Settlement, but the value of the sheep and goats collected in payment of revenue previous to Settlement was merged in the land revenue then fixed, and no separate fees for grazing were levied.

In Astore and colder estates of Gilgit there is a thick *forest* growth supplying plenty of grazing for cattle and sheep, and the number of livestock owned by the villagers is fairly large there.

The main slopes of the mountains enclosing the warmer estates of Gilgit are not covered with good forests, but there are wide stretches of waste land over the tract with a sprinkling of forests, which form fairly good pasture areas. These estates have, moreover, their grazing nallas and hill sides, and many of them possess live-stock in fairly large number. But the estates around the head quarters of Gilgit pay more attention to agriculture, and the live-stock especially sheep and goats is generally small there.

In principle all lands to whatever purpose applied and wherever situated are liable to the payment of land revenue to the State. Hence the profits accrued from grazing have always and in all districts been considered as a part of the assets of all the land holders, on which the assessment of the land revenue is based. It may, however, be left to the choice of the land holder either to have such revenue merged in the revenue assessed on cultivation, or to get the portion of such assessments specified separately. Both in Gilgit and Astore the assessments made at last Settlement were confined to cultivated lands. But the time has come when separate Kahcharai tax on cattle, which depend for their grazing on the State waste areas, may be imposed here like other parts of the State. The tax on cattle is, moreover, in accordance with ancient custom in these tracts, where the flocks and herds play an important part in the rural economy.

The plough bullocks and cows should according to rule remain exempt from grazing fees, while ponies and asses are impressed here for transport and other requirements, which are the important feature of the administration of this part of the frontier districts. Every attempt should, therefore, be made to increase their number, as tax in the shape of grazing fees is sure to have a discouraging effect as far as their number is concerned; and ponies and asses should not,

therefore, be taxed under these proposals. The buffaloes of the Gujars are only 80 in number, including young. Their owners cultivate poor lands at very high altitude, where it is extremely cold, and they can fairly claim indulgence in this respect.

The sheep and goats feed on the extensive pastures, owned by the State, and though certain number of them are required for agricultural purposes the majority of them are a source of income to their owners. There can be no justification for exempting these animals, and the State may fairly lay claim to grazing fees on them. But the people have paid nothing in the form of pastoral tax since Settlement; the grazing available is no doubt inferior to that of Kashmir, while the services of the people in connection with the transport arrangements are not to be lost sight of. There is no ground for exempting the tract from the grazing fees altogether, as the tracts similarly circumstanced in the Ladakh District do pay grazing fees now. I will therefore assess this tract very leniently in the beginning, as the people would offer some indirect resistance in paying it. I propose to assess the sheep and goats at six pies per head, the rate adopted for Skardu Tahsil of the Ladakh District. This rate is not oppressive, as the people earn a good deal from the sale of butter, wool, and surplus sheep and goats. My proposals would bring Rs. 2287 to the State as per details shown in the following table:—

Circle.	Sheep and goats.	Fee per head.	Amount.	Proposed.
First	22,582	Rs. a. p. o o 6	Rs. a. p. 705 11 0	Rs. a. p. 706 o o
Second	35527	o o 6	1110 3 6	1110 o o
Third	15051	o o 6	470 5 6	471 o o
Tahsil	73160	o o 6	2286 4 0	2287 o o

CHAPTER.—VIII.
ASSESSMENTS IN KIND.

98. Prior to the Regular Settlement the greater portion of the revenue was received in kind, and consisted of several commodities of consumption, details of which may be found in para 23 of the Report.

Revenue in kind before Settlement.

99. In 1951 the tract was for the first time brought under Regular Settlement when the land revenue was wholly assessed in cash.

Expiring Settlement.

But with a view to meet the requirements of the Military garrison and other officials it was considered necessary to commute part of the cash assessments into grain. There was not much difficulty in giving effect to it, as the people were accustomed to pay their revenue in kind before the Settlement. Out of the total amount of land revenue, assessments in kind sanctioned for Gilgit and Astore ilakas were worth Rs. 7449 and Rs. 2312 respectively.

It appears, however, that the quantities of grain assessed were not sufficient to meet the requirements of the troops and officers. A system of "Hukmi Kharid" or forced purchase of grain, had, therefore, to be introduced to make good the deficiency. The rates sanctioned for Hukmi Kharid were 24 seers per rupee for wheat, Indian corn, mash and mung, and 27 seers 7 chhatanks per rupee for giram and shali. Such demand was, however, confined to Gilgit ilaka, Astore having been exempted from this impost, probably because the ilaka did not produce any surplus grain for sale under "Hukmi". Shali has never been realised, as its cultivation has been very limited.

It may be noted that the revenue and Hukmi Kharid grains have always been delivered to the Commissariat Department of the Government of India, whose requirements for rationing the garrison have varied from year to year, with the result that the quantities of grains fixed at Settlement were not fully realized. The following table shows the variations in realizations of revenue and Hukmi grains for the last five years.

Year.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
	REVENUE GRAIN.								HUKMI KHARID.								
	Recoveries.						Recoveries.						Total of Column 6 and 11.		Total of Column 7 and 12.		Difference of Column 14 and 15.
Wheat.	Indian corn.	Dat.	Giram.	Total.	Demand.	Difference.	Wheat.	Indian corn.	Total.	Demand.	Difference.	Total.	Total of Column 6 and 11.	Total of Column 7 and 12.	Total.	Difference.	
1968	1480	3182	435	151	5248	7233	1985	1055	98	1153	3014	761	6401	1153	6401	3846	
1969	2187	3775	469	650	7081	...	152	948	967	1915	...	1099	8996	1099	8996	1251	
1970	2321	3764	350	598	7033	...	200	1045	1197	2242	...	772	9275	10247	9275	972	
1971	1842	4267	418	545	7072	...	161	1173	801	1974	...	1040	9046	1040	9046	1201	
1972	1777	2887	489	46	5199	...	2034	882	1311	2193	...	821	7392	821	7392	2855	
Total.	9607	17875	2161	1990	31633	36165	4532	5103	4374	9477	...	5593	41110	51235	41110	10125	
Average.	1921	3575	432	398	6326	7233	907	1021	875	1896	3014	1118	8222	10247	8222	2025	

The Revenue in grain has generally been recovered in full. The reason lies in the fact that the peasant usually considers it his foremost duty to pay up his Revenue in kind even at the sacrifice of his domestic requirements ; balances of kind revenue, if any, were trifling and had been recovered in cash.

Hukmi Kharid collections varied considerably in certain years. This was due either to the inability of the zamindars to spare any quantity of grain for sale under "Hukmi" in years of bad harvests, or to the Supply and Transport Department refusing to accept the grain up to the fixed demand, on account of surplus grains in their godowns.

The distribution of the total amount of grain revenue was made over the estates without having regard to the amount of grain produced, and its consumption in each and every estate. The assessments fixed proved vexatious, especially to the zamindars of the colder estates, where pressure of population is heavy, and the limited produce of grains is hardly sufficient to maintain the inhabitants throughout the year. The people there are now unwilling to pay any part of their revenue in grain. In the warmer estates of Gilgit ilaka producing grain surplus of their requirements, the people have to pay their cash revenue by sale of grain, but in the absence of a free market for grains they have no other alternative but to yield to the rates fixed by the Political and the Revenue Departments. In these circumstances the people naturally think that without resorting to the Commissariat Department for sale of their grains they would not be able to make up the cash revenue, or at least it might cost them more grain to do so. Some of the people of the Gilgit ilaka do not, therefore, think it safe to have their revenue in grains converted to cash.

Generally speaking, however, the system of grain revenue is regarded as complicated and troublesome. Besides, grain collections in a country, which produces hardly enough grain for its own consumption, are undoubtedly a hardship, and should be kept as low as possible. The zamindars of Astore mostly have to import grain from Kashmir for their own expenses and payment of revenue due from them in grains. The omission made at Settlement in fixing demand for each kind of grain has also been a source of annoyance and inconvenience to all concerned. The privilege has so far been abused in various ways, both by the zamindars and the Supply agents.

The Political Agent, Gilgit, while advocating certain improvements in the present revenue collecting system in his D. O. letter No. 4619/3-H, dated 11th December 1912, to the address of the Settlement Commissioner, suggested *inter alia* that the people should continue to pay to the Commissariat Department the grain due from them on account of revenue and Hukmi Kharid grains, but that they should receive from that Department cash payment for all grains so delivered at full Khush Kharid rates, and from the sale proceeds they should pay their whole revenue in cash to the Revenue Department. The proposal was duly supported by the State authorities, and was sanctioned by the Durbar under His Highness' orders, conveyed in Chief Minister's letter No. 5749 of 24th November 1913, to the Revenue Minister, directing that the system proposed might be tried as a tentative measure in the Gilgit ilaka. But there were

certain difficulties in introducing the measure, which had consequently to be postponed for further consideration by the Settlement Department, *vide* His Highness' order conveyed, in Chief Minister's letter No. 2535, dated 18th July 1914, to the Revenue Minister.

100. I have dealt at length on the working of the grain assessments of *Present necessities.* expiring Settlement. The above facts may well be borne in mind while considering the question of present needs.

The Settlement Commissioner made some correspondence on the subject with the Supply and Transport Officer on Special Duty in Kashmir. The points

1. Letter No. 4797 dated 11th October 1915, from Settlement Commissioner, to the Supply and Transport Officer on Special Duty
2. Letter No. 38/2177 dated 28th October 1915, from the Supply and Transport Officer on Special Duty to Settlement Commissioner.
3. Letter No. 5211 dated 5th November 1915, from Settlement Commissioner to the Supply and Transport Officer on Special Duty.
4. Letter No. 333 C. dated 13th December 1915, from Settlement Commissioner to Settlement Officer, Gilgit.

of that correspondence as noted in the margin is attached at the end of the Report.

From a reference to Statement B attached to the Supply and Transport Officer's No. 38/2706 dated 23rd December 1915, it would appear that the Supply and Transport Department requires 14784 maunds of grain as per details given below:—

Name of station.	Wheat.	Indian corn and barley.	Dal.	Total.
1. Gilgit ...	3228	2970	858	7056
2. Bunji ...	1368	2532	396	4296
3. Astore ...	1200	1920	312	3432
Total	5796	7422	1566	14784

Under the present arrangements the following quantities of each kind of grain are being supplied to the Commissariat Department under revenue and Hukmi kharid, *vide* Statement A, attached to the letter referred to above.

Description.	Wheat maunds.	Barley maunds.	Indian corn. maunds.	Dal. maunds.	Total. maunds.
Revenue ...	1852	1947	2333	424	6556
Hukmi ...	589	397	539	214	1739
Total	2441	2344	2872	638	8295

It would appear that the Commissariat Department requires 14784 maunds of various grains, against the average of 8295 maunds being supplied to them since the Regular Settlement. The balance of 6489 maunds is purchased locally by the Department at the political rates, or is supplied from Kashmir if circumstances require it.

101. In order to determine the standard of assessments in kind, local consumption of grains, and the total produce of the tract under report have first to be taken into consideration. Standard of Assessments in kind. I have discussed this subject in para. 85 of the report where the surplus quantity of grain has been shown to be 10140 maunds in all, I have consulted the Wazir-Wazarat in the matter, who agrees with me in thinking that the total assessments in kind should in no way exceed the *worked out* surplus quantity of grain, and that the total quantity fixed should be considerably below the surplus to leave margin for the alien population of Gilgit, such as shopkeepers, employees, artisans, labourers, etc., because if the surplus produce were taken entirely, the market would be stifled. The possible failure of crops and difficulties of realization are considerations, which should not be lost sight of. Giving allowances for all such contingencies and to be on the safe side, I would not put the net surplus for assessments in kind anything more than 8534 maunds, which has ultimately been agreed upon by the Political Agent Gilgit and the Settlement Commissioner in consultation with the Commissariat Department, vide the Political Agent's telegram No: 228-T dated Gulmarg the 26th: July 1916. Any excess over and above this figure is, I am afraid, likely to tell hardly upon the people.

102. Some estates produce less than they consume, as cultivation is too limited there to support the population. Others produce Assessments in kind. more than they consume, as cultivation is extensive there. The surplus of grain, the general prosperity, and the abundance of fruits and other articles of consumption, are also kept in view in assessing an estate. The figures of produce and consumption with other necessary details for each estate are shown in the register of the grain assessments proposed.

The estates where the produce is shown as considerably less than the consumption are not in some cases exempted altogether from paying the revenue in kind, because the people there do not in reality produce less than they want for the reasons given below:—

- (a) In joint families the actual expenses are less than those assumed in estimating the consumption.
- (b) Turnips, vegetables and fruits, which are left out of account, in framing the estimates of produce, form part of the food of the people.
- (c) The holders of some estates shown in the register as producing less grain than consumption are willing to pay a part or whole of their revenue in grain.

Such estates should, therefore, continue to pay grain in future, though they may fairly claim leniency in this respect.

Many estates of the Gilgit ilaka produce considerably more grain than the requirements of their holders. They are paying at present fairly large amount of grain due on account of the Hukmi Kharid and part payment of the revenue. I have commuted into grain part of the revenue, which should have

been paid in cash according to the present practice, and dispensed with Hukmi Kharid altogether for the following reasons:—

- (i) The payment of Hukmi Kharid has proved very unpopular, and zamindars have raised their dissentient voice against it.
- (ii) The Hukmi Kharid was imposed at the last Settlement and the Commissariat Department have been receiving it in quantities which they require every year within the scale laid down at Settlement. The commutation rates are very low, as compared with those of Khush Kharid fixed by the Political Agent every year.
- (iii) It is not a tax on the land imposed in accordance with the law in force, and has been the subject of complaint since the date of its introduction.
- (iv) The local officers are generally of opinion that this pernicious system of collecting grains should no longer be continued, and that if the amount of grain levied under this system cannot conveniently be dispensed with, it should be merged into grain revenue. The result is that many estates paying revenue partly in cash and partly in kind will have to pay their whole revenue in kind in the future.

In proposing the grain assessments on the above data, the following estates call for special notice:—

- (i) Out of the estates forming the Gilgit ilaka there is only one estate of Kargah, which has hitherto been exempt from paying the revenue in grain. It can, however, afford to pay a small portion of its revenue in grain. It has, therefore, been assessed as such.
- (ii) The cold estates of the Bagrot ilaka which appear to have been producing less grain than their requirements, have no objection to payment of part of their revenue in grain, as they are doing at present, and they have been assessed accordingly.
- (iii) The estates of Haramosh ilaka do not produce more than the local requirements, and have no chance to import grain. They have therefore been leniently assessed in grain. These estates are at present paying grain to the Revenue Department, because the villages were transferred to Gilgit from the Skardu Tahsil some years after the Settlement of 1951. In future they should deliver their revenue in grain to the Commissariat Department, either at Bunji or Pari, as may hereafter be decided. The Department agrees to pay at usual rates carriage of grain so delivered from Hanuchal to the Station where grain will be

received, *vide* telegram No. 222-T dated, Gulmarg, the 25th July 1916, received from the Political Agent in reply to my telegram No. 702 dated 18th July 1916.

- (iv) The grain revenue in the Astore villages was leniently assessed at Settlement. The tract is very cold, and most of the villages generally do not produce sufficient grains to maintain their holders throughout the year. But the people have got facilities of importing grain from Kashmir owing to the nearness of the tract to that place. They have been leniently treated now, but it seems unnecessary to exempt them altogether from payment of grain in revenue. There are certain estates in this ilaka which produce more grain than is sufficient for the local consumption ; they have been allowed to pay part of their revenue in kind as before.
- (v) The estates of Gashu, Paiot, Bueachhe in Gilgit and Sakmal, Shankar Garh, Ispa, Pharutse, Dirla-Bala, Dirla-Pain, Fakir-Kot, Mir Malik, and Gotam Sar, in Astore lie on the outskirts of the tahsil ; they are very cold* and the crops do not grow well there. The outturn is small, and the people there live mostly on what is yielded to them by livestock. These estates may fairly be exempted from paying grain in revenue. Partab-Garh, an estate lately colonized, may also be exempted from the payment of revenue in grain at present.
- (vi) Partabsinghpura in Nomal ilaka is one of the warmer estates, and can afford to pay in grain, but the estate having been newly colonized by the Hunza Settlers, requires special treatment, *vide* para 32 of the Report. It has, therefore, been assessed to half the grain revenue, but it will not be realized at present in full.
- (vii) Gomai in Astore is at present paying part of its revenue in kind, but the people are reluctant to pay it. This is also one of the cold estates of Astore, and may fairly be exempted from payment of revenue in grain.
- (viii) Naikui is not paying its revenue in grain at present. Hunza forming a part of the Gilgit village at last Settlement has now been made a separate estate. Chhamogah is a fairly warm estate, but has more than once been abandoned by its holders on account of the precarious condition of its water course. For this reason it has so far been enjoying exemption from jinsi revenue. All these 3 estates produce sufficiently large quantity of lucern (Rishka) grass, which they can easily pay in place of their cash assessments. The rishka is very badly required for the horses of the British and State officers stationed here. I have therefore proposed to take rishka from these villages in full payment of their revenue.

103. As already remarked in Para 99 supra, no proportions of wheat, Indian corn, barley and dals were separately laid down at last Settlement for delivery by the zamindars to the Commissariat Department. This anomalous arrangement has been found faulty, in as much as it afforded opportunities of fraud to all concerned. I am supported in this view by the Political Agent, Gilgit,^{and} his D. O. letter No. 4619/3-II dated 11-12-12 to the address of the Settlement Commissioner. But the Wazir Wazarat is of opinion that there should be no hard and fast line between different grains. He adds that wheat and pulses should have the same rate and be interchangeable, and Indian corn and giram on the other hand, should likewise be interchangeable, because the produce of pulses is limited, and no undue proportion of them need be apprehended. As regards possible abuses by Supply Agents, the Wazir says that there should be other safeguards against these, otherwise there would be difficulties in recovery of different kinds of grains in strictly laid down proportions. The Wazir does not, however, suggest any safeguard against the abuses on which the Political Agent says, there can be no check whatsoever. I do not on the other hand anticipate the least difficulty in the recovery of different kinds of grains, which have been assessed on the various villages in proportion to the quantity of grains they actually produce. I therefore, propose that 8534 maunds of grain may be taken as below:—

				Maunds
Wheat	...	...	...	4196
Indian corn	...	...	...	2735
Giram	...	...	...	1182
Mash and Mung	...	...	...	421
<hr/>				<hr/>
Total		...	8534	"

The total quantity and the proportions, proposed above, have practically been agreed to by the Political Agent after consultation with the Commissariat Department.

104. While considering the question of assessments in kind, we have to discuss the problem of rates as well. The official rates for grain which prevailed long before Settlement were sanctioned to be continued, and they are noted below:—

Wheat, Indian corn, mash, and mung at 28 seers or 14 topas per rupee or Rs1-7 per maund approximately. Giram and Shali at 34 seers or 18 topas (equal to 36 seers English weight) per rupee or 1-1-9 per maund.

Wheat, Indian corn, giram, mash and mung at 32 seers per rupee or 1-4 per maund.

These rates which are still in force are admittedly very low and require revision. Circumstances have since changed. People now earn more money than they did before. Population is increasing faster than cultivation, and this has tended to raise the prices here. There seems, therefore, no reason why the collection of grains should be continued to be made at so low rates. In

para 78 of this Report it has been remarked that the rates of grain to be collected in payment of revenue should be somewhat higher than those adopted for produce estimates for reasons given therein. Keeping all the circumstances in view I am of opinion, after consultation with the local revenue officers, that wheat, mash and mung, may in future be realised at 3/- per maund and Indian corn, giram and barley at 2-8 per maund. These rates have been agreed to by the Political Agent in consultation with the Commissariat Department, *vide* Settlement Commissioner's telegram No. 2860 dated 21st. July 1916, I had assumed different rates for Indian corn, giram and barley in para 78 of the Report, but on further enquiry I find that the difference of rates in these commodities is so slight that it can safely be neglected.

As for the period for which these rates should remain in force the Settlement Commissioner suggests five years, while the Supply and Transport Officer, Kashmir, writes that all recovery rates of the Commissariat Department are revised every three years, it would be convenient if rates were fixed at the same time and after the same period. I think, however, that three years period for the alteration of rates of revenue grain is too short, as it would involve unnecessary labour on the Revenue collecting agency. Moreover no appreciable changes in rates within such a short period are likely to take place in this ilaka where there is no free market. Five years period as suggested by the Settlement Commissioner would have been suitable, but in order to synchronize the time of revision of rates of revenue grain and that of the revision of recovery rates of the Commissariat Department by the Government of India, it would be better if 6 years period were laid down for this purpose. This means that rates of revenue grain would be revised only once concurrently with those of the Commissariat Department when the latter are revised twice. The revision of rates will of course take place with the sanction of Darbar

105. The proportions of various grains laid down above have been assessed on villages shown in the Register of the Revenue in kind.

Results. Consideration has been paid to the productive capacity of each village in making these assessments. Most of the villages in the first circle have been assessed entirely in kind, while those of the second circle partly in cash and partly in kind. In the 3rd circle only a few villages have been assessed in kind rather leniently.

The present demand of grain revenue is 7233 maunds worth Rs. 976/- according to rates fixed at last Settlement. My proposals show that the quantity of revenue in kind is 8534 maunds worth Rs. 23644 at the rates now fixed. The result is an increase of 1301 maunds of grain and Rs. 13883 in cash. Some remissions out of the total amount of grain fixed may be necessary on account of Muafis, which, however, would not exceed 300 maunds.

It may be noted that this increase in figures of grain is no real increase, as Hukmi Kharid figures have been merged into revenue grain assessments as much as possible. The increase in the value of grains has been due to corres-

ponding increase in their rates, as also to the fact that part of Hukmi grain has been converted into revenue grain, thereby causing decrease in cash assessments.

106. As would be seen I have dispensed with the Hukmi Kharid of grains. Fodder amounting to 5590 maunds fixed at Fodder. Settlement is also taken by the Commissariat Department in Hukmi Kharid at rate of 0-8-0 per maund.

The zamindars are at liberty to deliver rishka in whole or part payment of Bhusa at 0-12-0 per maund.

I was contemplating that Hukmi Kharid of fodder could also be abolished like that of grains, but the Political Agent Gilgit, informs in his telegram No. 180-T of 14th July 1916 that he does not think that Commissariat Department will ever agree to forego the supply of fodder they receive at present under Hukmi, as they already have great difficulty in obtaining their full requirements, and it would be too precarious, therefore, to trust to obtaining entire supply through Khush-Kharid. If, therefore, fodder is not to be included as part of regular revenue demand, it will be necessary, thinks the Political Agent, to have it Hukmi as at present.

The Wazir-Wazarat, Gilgit, is of opinion that it is neither desirable nor practicable to fix all fodder as part of revenue. He thinks that in certain selected villages some quantity of rishka might be assessed as revenue in place of grain, and suggests that it is possible to assess rishka in this way on Nomal and Jutal also, besides the Gilgit group of villages. The Wazir further says that if the Supply and Transport Department cannot supplement the revenue rishka by Khushkharid there is no alternative to fixing fodder as Hukmi Kharid for other villages. In these circumstances there appears to be no other way of getting the required quantity of fodder except by Hukmi Kharid, as the zamindars are generally reluctant to give rishka instead of grains in payment of revenue. Such villages, however, where almost all the assamis grow it, have been assessed to pay rishka in place of grains. These are Naikui, Hanzal and Chhamogah vide para 102 (viii) of this Report. These villages would pay about 600 maunds of rishka in revenue. The balance has to be arranged for by Hukmi.

The present requirements have exceeded the quantity fixed at Settlement. I am given to understand that in addition to 5590 maunds of fodder then imposed, the British and other State officers require rishka and bhusa for their horses, and this is generally arranged for by purchase through the Revenue authorities. The zamindars feel it as a great hardship, which would not cease to exist unless the system of purchase were put on some regular basis. The additional requirements need not exceed 1000 maunds of rishka, and the same quantity of Bhusa. Deducting 600 maunds of rishka assessed as revenue the balance required is 600 maunds of rishka and 1000 maunds of Bhusa, in addition to Hukmi Kharid of fodder fixed at last Settlement. Thus the total quantity now required as Hukmi Kharid is 6590 maunds of Bhusa and 400 maunds of rishka.

As for rishka, the following villages produce sufficient quantity to be able to pay it in Hukmi Kharid. I therefore propose that the maundage noted against each may be imposed.

Village	...	...	...	Maunds.
Shukaiot	...	...	...	15
Sharot	...	...	...	10
Bargu-Bala	...	...	...	10
Bargu-Pain	...	...	...	20
Naupur	...	...	...	35
Barmas	...	...	...	10
Gilgit	...	...	...	20
Partabpura	...	...	...	20
Khomar	...	...	...	10
Minowar	...	...	...	30
Nomal	...	...	...	150
Jutal	...	...	...	30
Danyor	...	...	...	40
<hr/>				
	Total	...	400	

Regarding Bhusa I have taken into consideration all the circumstances of each village concerned, and propose the following quantity to be levied in future :

Name of village.	Present scale. Maunds	Proposed scale.	
		Maunds	Maunds
Shukaiot	150-0	...	180
Sharot	200-0	...	220
Bargu-Bala	150-0	...	140
Bargu Pain	144-0	...	180
Naupur	148-5	...	250
Barmas	296-5	...	220
Gilgit	2794-35	...	2530
Partabpura	...	...	40
Khomar	197-20	...	230
Jutal	101-35	...	100
Sakwar	296-30	...	290
Minowar	302-20	...	200
Nomal	338-0	...	350
Jutal	60-0	...	40
Shanrot-Jagot	...	...	180
Sabil	...	...	60
Chakarkot	...	...	190
Damot	...	...	390
Darot	...	...	60
Jaglot	...	...	150
Bunji	...	...	110
Nalta	100	...	100
Janglot	60	...	60
Danyor	250	...	300
<hr/>			
Total	5589-30	...	6600

The proposed quantity of Bhusa have been based on the following data :—

- (a) The quantity of Bhusa which each village is giving at present.
- (b) The proposed Jama of each village.
- (c) Quantity of Bhusa, which each village can produce.

The villages, in which, rishka has been imposed, have been allowed a corresponding reduction in the supply of Bhusa.

107. The political Agent seems to suggest that bhusa and rishka should be taken as Hukmi at $8/$ and $10/$ per maund, respectively, from Gilgit group of villages, and at $6/$ and $8/$ per maund plus carriage at one pice per maund for every mile after the first four miles from other villages. I consulted the Wazir-Wazarat in the matter who suggests that fodder should be delivered at fixed centres, for instance Sharot, Nomal, Danyor, Gilgit, Pari, Bunji Damot, Doyan, Dashkin, Godai, Astore, Rattu and Gurikot, as the people feel the carriage of fodder more than the fodder itself. As for rates, the Wazir opines that they should be the same for Gilgit and Bunji, and each ilaka or group should have its own Settlement rate for fodder, as separate carriage rate system is bound to lead to abuses and complications. I agree with the Wazir in general, and note as below :—

- (a) That rishka received in revenue from Chhamogah Naikui, and Hanzal should be commuted at the rate of $12/$ per maund, as it will be delivered at Pari and Gilgit.
- (b) That Hukmi rishka should be delivered at Nomal, Sharot, Danyor, and Gilgit centres, the rates to be $10/$ at Nomal, Sharot, and Danyor, and $12/$ at Gilgit.
- (c) That Hukmi Bhusa should be delivered at the nearest fixed centres suggested by the Wazir-Wazarat, as far as Gilgit ilaka is concerned. The rate for Bhusa shall of course be $8/$ as before throughout.
- (d) That Indian corn and giram, if any required to feed the animals, shall in future be got from the Commissariat Department, and not through the Revenue Department as done now.

In Astore I understand that ordinary grass is supplied to the Commissariat Department. Out of the required amount, about 300 maunds is contributed by the State Rakhs of Idgah and Chongra. The balance is got from the zamindars at Astore. The arrangement is not Hukmi Kharid, but it was introduced somehow or other after the Settlement. Regarding the grass of the State Rakhs I have made my proposal in para (122) of the Report. I may add that if the old system is to continue, grass should be delivered to the Commissariat at the proposed centres. The matter has been referred to the Political Agent, Gilgit, for opinion through the Settlement Commissioner, vide my telegram No. 752 dated 5th August 1916. If he agreed to the proposal the zamindars would, no doubt, be relieved of great trouble.

108. In addition to a Wasilbakinawis in the Tahsil there is a grain Moharrir getting Rs. 30 p.m. pay, plus Rs. 15 p.m. local allowance. He presently keeps accounts of cash advances made to the zamindars on account of Hukmi Kharid grain, of realisations in kind, and distributes Hukmi Kharid grain over villages in accordance with the Indent of the Commissariat Department. Hukmi grain has been proposed to be in future merged into the revenue grain, which will be distributed over Assamis by the Patwaris, so that no account in connection with the Hukmi Kharid will be required to be kept any longer in the Tahsil. The account of revenue grains can be kept by the Tahsil Wasilbakinawis of whose duties it forms a part.

There is no grain moharrir in the Ladakh Wazarat, where also revenue in kind is realised. The Wasilbakinawis there keeps such accounts. Nor is there any such moharrir in the Astore Niabat, where revenue in kind is also realised, I think the grain moharrir was required only in case of Hukmi Kharid grain. The Wazir-Wazarat thinks that the post should continue to exist, as there is neither any Kothiala nor a Naib Wasilbakinawis in the Tahsil. But I do not see my way to agree with him. No Kothiala should be required where grain is delivered to the Commissariat department, nor do I see any necessity for a Naib Wasilbakinawis in this Tahsil which contains only 80 villages, of which 35 are attached to Astore Niabat and remaining 45 to Gilgit Tahsil proper. There appears to be no reason why the Wasilbakinawis should not be able to keep accounts of these villages. Moreover the quantity of work in this Tahsil as compared with other Tahsils in the State is very small. Besides, there is a proposal to establish a Niabat at Bunji, which, when sanctioned, would take away another lot of 15 villages from the Gilgit Tahsil, leaving only 30 villages for the Wasilbakinawis to deal with. I am, therefore, strongly of opinion that the post of grain moharrir of the Tahsil is now a sinecure, and can be brought under reduction without detriment to the work of the Tahsil. This would affect a saving of Rs. 540 per annum.

109. Before Settlement the revenue of the Tahsil was paid in cash, grain, gold, butter, and sheep and goats (para 39 of the Gold revenue. Assessment Report of Gilgit). The system was modified at Settlement in so far as the revenue paid in butter, sheep and goats was commuted into cash; but it appears that no efforts were made to ascertain as to whether the payment in gold was a tax on land or one due on account of gold washing from the rivers. Biddulph in his "Tribes of the Hindu Kush" throws light on the subject, (para 22, supra), and says that gold was levied on the income accrued to the people from gold washing.

Gold in revenue is at present being collected from the estates situated along the Hunza, Bagrot and Gilgit rivers as below:—

Name of village.	Quantity Tolu-Masha.	Rate per tolu.	Value.
Jutial	...	3-0	10-0
Sakwar	...	5-0	"
Minawar	...	8-6	"
Nomal	...	5-0	"
Jutal	...	4-0	"

Name of village.	Quantity Tolu-Masha.	Rate per tolu.	Value.
Naltar	3-0	"	30-0-0
Janglot	2-0	"	20-0-0
Datuche	4-0	"	40-0-0
Sanokar	7-0	"	70-0-0
Danyor	10-0	"	100-0-0
Bulche	5-0	"	50-0-0
Farfuh	10-0	"	100-0-0
Bilchhar	8-0	"	80-0-0
Tesot	3-0	"	30-0-0
Total	77-6		777-8-0

NOTE :—One tolu = 8 masha.

The zamindars wash gold from the rivers within the limits of their villages, and are exempt from the effects of Notification No. 8, dated 4th Har 1962, under which licenses are issued. They are reluctant to accept gold being realised in part payment of the revenue, the reason being that all of them do not practice gold washing, and have to buy gold for payment of revenue at a considerably higher rate than that at which it is received by the State. The value of one tolu as adjusted by the State is Rs. 10/- but it can be sold in Bazar at Rs. 13-5-0. The zamindars will thus gain Rs. 3-5-0 per tolu, and it seems unnecessary to let them wash gold in future without obtaining licenses.

I would therefore propose that no part of the revenue should in future be paid in gold.

If the proposals meet with the approval of the Darbar, the complaint that certain people extract gold illegally every year under the protection of the zamindars of the villages exempt from gold revenue will be removed for good.

CHAPTER.—IX.

MISCELLANEOUS PROPOSALS RELATING TO ASSESSMENTS.

110. The following are the rates of cesses imposed at present :—

Cesses.

	Gilgit.	Astore.	Haramosh.
Lambardar	... 5%	5%	5%
Patwar ...	... 2%	3%	4%

The rate of Lambardari cess is the same as levied on the other settled Tahsils, and may continue as heretofore.

As regards the Patwar cess for Gilgit and Astore, the rate sanctioned at the Settlement was insufficient to cover the expenditure of the Patwar Agency and it was raised from Rs. 2 in Gilgit and Rs. 3 in Astore to a uniform rate of Rs. 4-4, (*vide* Chief Minister's No. 7545 dated 22nd November 1907 to the Revenue Minister). Orders for enforcement of the sanctioned rates were issued, but the zamindars came forward with prayers to defer the levy of the new rates until the re-settlement of the District. The matter was resubmitted to His Highness the Maharaja Sahib Bahadur with recommendations for postponements of the newly sanctioned rates until re-settlement, and sanction to it was accorded *vide* His Highness' orders No. 3169 of 6th April 1909. His Highness also directed that it might be seen at the time of re-settlement if the new rates had not been pitched too high. I may submit that actual expenditure under this head has shown that even the rates of 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ % sanctioned in 1907 would not be sufficient to cover the expenditure of the Patwar Agency, which is at present partly being borne by provision in the Revenue expenditure budget. Moreover, the present Patwar Agency is not up to the mark, and no good men are available on the low scale of pay prevailing at present, and outsiders would not care to serve on such a small pay. To ensure, therefore, a more efficient discharge of the Patwar duties, the Patwar cess may be assessed in the Tahsil at the rate of 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent as sanctioned for Skardu. The deficiency, if any, may be made good from the Revenue budget.

The cesses to be levied on Kahcharai fees may be realised at 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent of the demand, Rs. 3-2 per cent being Lambardari cess, and Rs. 3-2 Patwar cess.

The Jagirdars and Muasidars will not be exempt from paying the cesses as usual.

No road and school cess need at present be levied in this backward tract, where the zamindars are mainly responsible for the maintenance of the village roads, and the policy regarding education appears to be to encourage it at the expense of the State.

111. The State being the owner of all lands in the tract under report, a Malikana of one anna per rupee may be deemed to be merged in the land Revenue, no Malikana being realised separately.

Malikana.

It should be realized at one anna in the rupee from Jagirdars and Muafidars, unless in any case especially exempted by His Highness the Maharaja Sahib Bahadur.

112. The number of water mills in the tract under report at the last Settlement excluding 11 of Haramosh was 213 as per detail given below :—

Water-mills.	Gilgit	...	...	...	...	130
	Astore ilaka	...	...	...	...	83
						<hr/> 213

Under State Council Resolution No. 17 of 20th October 1894 the tax on water mills was remitted.

The present number of water mills including 11 of Haramosh is as follows :—

In working order	...	...	...	394
Demolished	...	...	...	<hr/>24
				418

Ilakawar, they are distributed as under :—

		Gilgit	Astore.
In working order	...	216	178
Demolished	...	17	7
		<hr/> 233	<hr/> 185

There has been an increase of 181 water-mills in working order over the figures of the previous Settlement. This increase includes Basin ², Harcho ⁷, Kattu ³, Das-Khirim ⁹ water mills of the marginally noted Jagir villages, which were not measured at last Settlement. The net increase, therefore, comes to 160, of which 58 mills, i.e. 30 in Gilgit, and 28 in Astore, were built in the Khalsa area, on which ground rent at various rates was fixed as per detail given below :—

		Rs. a. p.
Gilgit	...	26 8 0
Astore	...	14 10 0
		<hr/> 41 2 0

No ground rent was imposed on the remaining 80 mills, which lie in the holdings of the assamis. From a reference to the Assessment Report of the Regular Settlement it appears that Raja Alidad Khan of Gilgit collected Rs. 1-2-0 and 0-12-0 respectively as tax on water mills from the villages of Taisot and Bilchhar, while Raja Kamal Khan of Nomal realised a tax of Rs. 5/- from the water mills of Nomal. Both the Rajas realised a tax of Rs. 2/- imposed on the mills of Danyor. The Jagir files show that privileges to recover these taxes were granted to the above Rajas under Resolution No. 16 of 26th September

1894. The zamindars of Tesot, Bilchhar and Danyor however, state that tax on water mills was collected from them by the Rajas for 2 years after Settlement and thenceforth it was remitted. Raja Alidad Khan's son deposes, on the other hand, that it is only for the last 8 or 9 years that tax on water mills has not been realised, and that he is to institute a regular civil suit for the recovery of the arrears.

Further from a reference to the Lombardari files of Gilgit it seems that under orders of the Settlement Officer, dated 1st October 1894, the Lombardars of Gilgit were permitted to recover Rs. 20-8-0 as tax imposed on water mills as part of their dues. On enquiry it has been found that the Gilgit Lombardars are collecting Rs. 21/- as tax on 12 water mills.

It appears, however, that permission to the Rajas and Lombardars to recover tax on water mills was granted before Resolution No. 17 of 20th October 1894 was passed, under which such taxes were abolished. There was no reason, therefore, for the continuance of such recoveries by the Rajas and Lombardars after resumption has been ordered. They do not hold assami rights on the lands under water mills. They have, therefore, no right to recover any tax on water mills. The Lombardars get their Panjotra, and besides no other Lombardar of any village receives such a tax. There is no reason to treat the Gilgit Lombardars differently by giving them preference to others in this behalf. No taxes should, therefore, be recovered in future by the Rajas and the Lombardars. Raja Alidad Khan as noted above has already stopped recovery.

The question now arises as to the assessment of these water mills. Experience shows that mostly the zamindars use their water mills for grinding their own grain, except in some of the villages such as Gilgit, Bunji Chongra, Putipura, Idgah, etc. where some of the water mills are a source of income to the zamindars as compared to other zamindari water mills. But such mills are few and far between. I am, therefore, of opinion that as in Skardu Tahsil there is no need of assessing the water mills. I shall, however, take them into consideration in village assessments.

113. At last Settlement the payment of revenue was decided to be made in the following instalments:—
Instalments.

District.	Circles.	Rabi Instalments.				Kharif Instalments.					
		1st instalment.		2nd instalment.		1st instalment.		2nd instalment.		3rd instalment.	
		1st to 15th Bhadon.		1st to 15th Assuj.		1st to 15th Katak.		1st to 15th Maghar.		1st to 15th Phagan	
Gilgit.		Cash.	Kind.	Cash.	Kind.	Cash.	Kind.	Cash.	Kind.	Cash.	Kind.
		1/4	...	1/4	...	...	...	1/4	...	1/4	...
		1/8	1/4	1/4	1/4	...	...	1/4	1/4	1/8	1/4
		1/4	1/4	1/4	1/4	...	...	1/4	1/4	1/4	1/4
Astore.		1/4	1/4	1/4	1/4	...	...	1/4	1/4	1/4	1/4
		1/2	...	1/2	1/2	...	...	1/2	...	...	...
		1/2	...	1/2	1/2	...	...	1/2	...	...	...
		1/4	1/4	1/4	1/4	1/2	1/2	1/4	...	...	...
		1/4	1/4	1/4	1/4	1/2	1/2	1/4	...	...	...

The Political Agent while writing to the Settlement Commissioner (vide his D. O. No. 4619-3-H. of 11th December 1912) concluded his suggestions with the following remarks bearing on the "Instalments of revenue."

"Yet another change which should be introduced *pari passu* with the others above mentioned is to abolish the cash instalments of revenue, which is now taken in the month of July and take the whole revenue instead in cash at one time in the winter, after the people have delivered the grain to the Commissariat, and when they could easily afford to pay cash. The present system of taking a cash instalment in July, i-e, before the people have even harvested their crops, is a very pernicious one and most fruitful cause of much of the present troubles, as the people have no money then to pay their cash assessments, and so they are at the mercy of the Commissariat and other officials, who offer them advances for grain etc., at rates very much below the Political rates, which the people are practically bound to accept as they must raise money somehow to pay their cash instalments."

From a reference to the Statement of present revenue instalments, given above, it would appear, that there is no July instalment of cash revenue. There is, however, one such instalment payable in the 1st: half of the Hindi month of Bhadon synchronising with the period from the middle of August to end of September. In Gilgit proper the zamindars nearly finish thrashing out their Rabi harvest in Bhadon and if, as suggested by the Political Agent, this instalment of cash revenue were to be postponed and realised simultaneously with the winter cash instalment of Maghar, we would in a way, be losing hold on the security of the realisation of revenue, which, the Revenue Officers presently have in the attachment of ready grain of harvests, if need be.

I have made enquiries from the zamindars as to the revenue instalments which would suit them for payment; and they appear to be right in saying that the present instalments do not suit them, in as much as they closely follow one another after very brief intervals of a fortnight only. They further pray that revenue in kind may be taken from them in a single instead of two instalments. I am inclined to think that so many instalments as prevail at present do no real good, but embarrass the lumbardars of the distant villages and Tahsil officials as well. I also consulted the Wazir-i-Wazarat, who suggested the following instalments being fixed for future.

(1) 15th : Bhadon to 15th Assuj	... $\frac{1}{2}$ cash
(2) 15th : Poh to 15th : Magh	... $\frac{1}{2}$ cash
(3) 1st : Maghar to end of Magh :—Whole revenue in kind.	

The above instalments are suitable for Astore ilaka. In Gilgit, where most of the revenue has been assessed in kind, I am of opinion that two instalments would do as below :—

(1) 15th : Bhadon to 15th : Assuj	... Whole cash.
(2) 1st : Maghar to end of Magh	... Whole kind.

114. In 1957 the Wazir Wazarat obtained sanction of the Darbar to the levy of ground rent in respect of all new shops, houses and water mills built on the Khalsa area. In the case of shops this ground rent was proposed to be charged at Re. 1 p. a. for every 2 marlas of land occupied by a shop, so that some shopkeepers have to pay from Rs. 4 to 10 p. a. according to the area occupied by his shop or shops. The ground rent for houses and water mills was proposed to be charged at annas 4 per marla, and the amount which is being realised under this head varies from 1 to Rs. 5 p. a. in proportion to the area occupied. The total receipts from ground rent are Rs. 200-5 as per detail below:—

District.		Details.			Ground rents.	
					Rs. a.	
Gilgit	...	Houses	...	...	38	31 3
	...	Shops	...	...	52	80 0
	...	Water mills	...	...	27	23 8
Bunji	...	Houses	...	...	6	9 0
	...	Shops	...	...	14	14 0
	...	Water mills	...	...	3	3 0
Astore	...	Houses	...	...	4	3 0
	...	Shops	...	...	18	22 0
	...	Water mills	...	...	28	14 10
Tahsil	...	Houses	...	...	48	43 3
	...	Shops	...	...	84	116 0
	...	Water mills	...	...	58	41 2
		Total	...	...	200	5

I made personal enquiries from the tax payer zamindars as to the justification of this tax, and found that the people greatly felt the pinch of this tax, which is realised from them on the areas occupied by them under houses for their cattle and water mills. I think that their grievances are well founded, and am of opinion that no such tax should be levied, when none is realised in case of the houses built on areas broken up under Regulation No. 6 or otherwise. Similarly no tax is recoverable in principle on such water mills as grind only a small quantity of flour for the personal use of their owners or other zamindars of the village.

I called for the Wazir's opinion in the matter. He thinks that only such pieces of land should be liable to pay ground rent as have come under shops built for commercial purposes, and that no other lands should be made to pay this tax. I am quite at one with the said officer, and think that with the exception of lands that have come or will in future come under shops built for commercial purposes in Gilgit, Bunji or Astore, no other area under houses or water mills should be charged any ground rent. It may be noted that land presently under houses and water mills brings Rs. 84-5 to the State, which may be remitted, and no such tax should be levied on such houses or water mills that may in future be built on the Khalsa area. Shops that may be built on the Khalsa area for commercial purposes will, however, be liable to pay the tax at Re. 1 p. a. as at present per every 2 marlas of land occupied.

115. The term of Settlement of Gilgit Tahsil expired with the payment of Kharif instalment of 1961, and that of Astore a year earlier.

There is much scope for increase in cultivation, but the irrigation in the District cannot be improved without substantial monetary help from the State. I, therefore, propose the term of 20 years for the re-settlement of the district from the date the new assessments are announced, which may be done from Rabi 1974.

116. The Statement given below shows the general results of my proposal :—
Financial results.

Assessment Circle.	Kind.	CURRENT DEMAND.						PROPOSED.						PERCENTAGE OF INCREASE OR DECREASE OF.					
		Amount.	Cash.	At present rates.	At proposed rates.	Total of Col. 2 & 4.	Cesses.	Total of Col. 7 & 8.	Kachchhari.	Land.	Total of Col. 10 and Cesses.	Total of Col. 12 and Cesses.	Land revenue Col. 11 (compared with Col. 7).	Land revenue Col. 12 (compared with Col. 14 combined with Kachchhari ccesses with Col. 7).	Land revenue Col. 13 (compared with Kachchhari and combined ccesses with Col. 9).	REMARKS.			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17			
First	... 5503	3871	5361	10540	10864	16043	793	16836	17765	706	18471	2043	20514	207	+ 15.1	+ 21.8			
Second	... 7919	3171	4210	5362	12129	16281	932	17213	17405	1110	14515	1577	1692	177	- 6.5				
Third	... 3263	297	378	828	3641	4091	291	4382	4910	471	4481	481	4962	20	+ 9.5	+ 13.2			
Total	... 16685	7339	9049	19730	26634	36415	2616	38431	35180	2287	37467	4101	41568	34	+ 2.9	+ 8.2			

CHAPTER—X.

MISCELLANEOUS PROPOSALS NOT RELATING TO ASSESSMENTS.

117. Like Ladakh Wazarat the well known system of Res, the same euphemistic name of Kar-begar or forced labour, is also prevalent more or less in these parts, which, however, are not populated to the same extent.
Res and Begar.

On the Gilgit-Bandipur road there are the following centres, where a village or a group of villages supply transport.

Gilgit ilaka :—Minawar, Pari, Bunji.

Astore ilaka :—Astore, Gudai, Chillum.

Traffic of officials, bona fide visitors and movements of troops have necessitated the introduction of Karbegan system here, in the absence of any other easier mode of properly attending to State functions. The ilaka being sparsely populated, the burden of Kar-begar is heavily felt by the people, who have to remain present, together with their ponies and asses to supply transport and articles such as milk, fowls and eggs, at stages far distant from their houses. The demand is distributed over families, irrespective of whether such families have milk and fowls to spare at all. This system has its advantages as well as shortcomings. The people earn a good deal from carriage; and the poverty of the tract does not tell heavily on them; the arrangements are however liable to greatly interfere with their zamindari work.

As far as the question of supplies is concerned the Hon'ble the Resident in Kashmir noted in his diary of tour in this Agency in September 1913 that the time had come when Begar in the matter of supplies should be replaced by other arrangements, and if the system could not be improved upon, the fact should be borne in mind at the revision of Settlement, when allowance for such exigencies be made in the revenue rates. He, however, suggested 3 alternative measures to be taken to cope with the situation.

- (i) Establishment of dairy farms for the troops.
- (ii) Weekly organisation of a free bazar or Mela at Rattu, according to South Indian custom, for the requirements of the troops.
- (iii) Appointment of contractors or shopkeepers on favourable terms to sell miscellaneous supplies.

Regarding the first I have recorded a separate note elsewhere in this Report. The second suggestion has not so far met with success, as the people could not be induced by the Revenue Officers to take to the holding of such Melas. The third alternative is being tried by the revenue authorities, and would, if successful, relieve a good deal of the zamindars' sufferings in the matter of Begar for supplies.

Regarding the transport arrangements they are at present regulated as below :—

(a) *Minawar stage.*

Minawar proper one month

Sakwar and Jutial one month

one after the other.

- (b) *Pari.* Pari itself is no village. It has a Public works department rest house and the people of the Sai ilaka supply transport for comers to Gilgit, while Minawar, Sakwar and Jutial do so for those going down from Gilgit.
- (c) *Bunji.* The Res system was introduced here after the abolition of the Bunji Niabat. The villages of Sai and Haramosh do Kar-begar here, and a Motbar for making supplies has recently been appointed here.
- (d) At Rattu, Gudai, and Chillum the zamindars do not in turn keep attending at the stages, but Res is given on demand. A Motbar has also been appointed for making supplies to troops at Rattu, and the result of the measure is being awaited.
- (e) A sum of Rs. 2000/- was advanced to the zamindars for purchase of Taccavi ponies in the year 1971, and the measure relieved a part of the sufferings of the zamindars in the matter of supply of transport animals.

Now as for (a), (b), (c) (d) and (e) above I may remark as below :—

- (a) From Minawar, the zamindars under load have to travel 9 miles towards Gilgit and 28 miles towards Bunji. The latter journey has to be made through a sandy and waterless tract, which the zamindars feel greatly troublesome especially during summer. The people pray for assistance being given to them in the discharge of their Kar-begar duties by Bagrot zamindars, who do not at present give any Kar-begar, except coming once a year to Gilgit for clearance and repairs to the Sardar kuhl, which is not much to do. I think that their request is reasonable and may be granted in the following way :—

Of the 6 villages comprising the Bagrot ilaka two villages may continue to attend to the repairs of the Sardar kuhl as before, and the rest should join and assist in the *res* work at Pari bungalow.

- (b) If as proposed above, the 4 villages of Bagrot be made to assist at Pari, the people of Sai, Minawar, Sakwar and Jutial, who in addition to Pari have to give Kar-begar at Bunji and Minawar, would be greatly relieved.
- (c) The people of Haramosh would also get some relief, if *res* at Pari Bungalow were fixed as proposed in (a) above. The revival of Bunji Niabat, which is the subject of a separate correspondence, would also mend matters to some extent. At present a low paid Levy (police) Havaldar is in charge of the Res arrangements, which is anything but satisfactory.
- (d) No further improvements are at present called for.
- (e) Advances for purchase of Taccavi ponies to the zamindars may be encouraged, as this would go a long way to relieve

the zamindars as far as the question of supply of transport in the Gilgit ilaka is concerned. At present the number of ponies in the Gilgit ilaka is quite insufficient to meet the growing demand, and the Astore ponies have to be brought up to Gilgit at the time of movements of troops or carriage of Commissariat grain from one store godown to another. The Commissariat mules are insufficient to meet their own demands, and hence they indent on the Civil Department for large amount of transport.

Muafis.—Individual exemptions from Kar-begar are presently of the following kinds :—

- (1) State and British Government employees in inferior or superior service.
- (2) Syeds, boatmen and Fakirs.
- (3) Minors, blind, lame, sick or aged persons.
- (4) Holders of war medals.
- (5) Private servants of Rajas.

The question of individual muafis in Kar-begar is being separately enquired into, as also the Muafis to certain villages granted at the last Settlement. Some undeserving persons have been found to be exempt, whose burden falls on the rest. Fresh muafis will be granted to really deserving men after the enquiry is completed. The Kar-begar rules sanctioned at the last Settlement are also under revision, and as soon as the number of Begaris is ascertained a separate report on the system of Res proposed to be introduced will be submitted in consultation with the Wazir Wazarat.

118. The Kanungo establishment in 1971 was as below :—

Kanungos.

<i>Gilgit</i>			Per annum.
Kanungo, one, at Rs. 25 p. m.	...	...	... Rs. 300
Local allowance at Rs. 15 p. m.	...	...	... " 180
<i>Astore</i>			
Kanungo, one, at Rs. 25 p. m.	...	...	... " 300
Local allowance at Rs. 15 p. m.	...	...	... " 180
Contingencies at As. 8 p. m. each	...	...	... " 12
			—
	Total	...	972

In view of the recommendations made by me in my No. 752 dated 24th October 1915 to the Settlement Commissioner, His Highness the Maharaja Sahib Bahadur has been pleased to sanction the appointment of an additional Kanungo for the Wazarat with the necessary menial staff with effect from Sambat 1973, vide No. 7725/F-42 dated 21st February 1916 from the Chief Minister, to the Revenue Minister.

The present Kanungo staff consists of :—

Office Kanungo one at Rs. 30 p. m.	...	...	...	Rs. 360
Local allowance at Rs. 15 p. m.	...	...	...	„ 180
Field Kanungos 2 at Rs. 25 p. m. each	...	...	...	„ 600
(one for Gilgit and one for Astore)				
Local allowance at Rs. 15 each p. m.	...	...	...	„ 360
Contingencies for 2 field kanungos, at 1/8 p. m. each	...	...	...	„ 12
Chaprasis for field Kanungos, 2 at 8 p. m. each	...	...	...	„ 192
			Total ...	Rs. 1704

The expenditure will as before be met from the revenue budget

119. The present scale of Patwaris is given below :—

Patwaris.

Gilgit.

Patwaris	5	Per Annum.
One at Rs. 12 p. m.	...	...
Three at Rs. 8 p. m.	...	...
One at Rs. 10 p. m.	...	...

Astore

Patwaris	3	Per Annum.
One at Rs. 12 p. m.	...	...
One at Rs. 10 p. m.	...	...
One at Rs. 8 p. m.	...	...
Contingencies at 1/4 each	...	... Rs. 360
Miscellaneous expenses (contingent) at Rs. 5. p. m.	...	... Rs. 60
Local allowance to 4 at 60 %	...	... Rs. 24
Local allowance to 4 at 30 %	...	... Rs. 410
		Total ... Rs. 1406

Part of the pay of Patwaris, and the whole amount paid on account of the local allowance, are being met from the revenue budget.

The present strength and emoluments of the Patwar agency are inadequate. The staff is not quite competent. Consequently the object of the maintenance of the village records up-to-date is defeated to a great extent. The pay and prospects of the Patwaris are not attractive enough to induce well qualified men to come to these inhospitable and out of the way regions. The number of fields returned at present is 44228 against 20751 in Gilgit, and 27647 against 8258 in Astore. This gives an increase of 147.8 per cent on totals, which means a substantial increase in work. Moreover the ilaka is extremely hilly, and the villages are distant from each other. Taking into consideration the peculiar circumstances of the country, I would propose the following future scale of Patwaris for the tract under report :—

		Per annum.
Patwaris	... 4 at Rs. 14 p.m. each	... Rs. 672
Local allowance	... at 60 percent for 2 patwaris and at 30 percent for 2 Patwaris ...	... „ 303
Patwaris	... 4 at Rs. 12 p.m. each	... „ 576

				Per annum.
Local allowance	... at 60 percent for 2 Patwaris and 30 percent for			
	2 Patwaris	...	...	Rs. 260
Patwaris	... 5 at Rs. 10 each p.m.	...	...	,, 600
Local allowance	... at 30 percent each p.m.	...	...	,, 180
Zaid Patwaris	... 2 at Rs. 8 p.m. each	...	...	,, 192
Local allowance	... at 30 percent each p.m.	...	...	,, 58
Contingencies	... at 1/4/- each Patwar	...	...	,, 39
				<hr/> Total ... 2,880

This means an increase of Rs. 1,474 including the local allowance which would be amply repaid by the proper maintenance of village records in future. The scale of pay now proposed is liberal enough to attract capable men from outside. The local candidates also are being trained in the present Settlement, and their appointments would help to diminish the charges under local allowance, when they replace outsiders by and by.

The proposed land revenue for the whole district is Rs. 35,180.

The Patwar cess including the cess on Kahcharai (para 97) will give Rs. 2,270.

The deficiency, as proposed may be made good from the revenue budget.

120. It was proposed at the last Settlement that the Zaildar Agency should be introduced into Gilgit and Astore, but the late Zaildars and Sased-Poshes. State Council held over the matter for further consideration, and no final orders have so far been passed. Although there were no regular zaildars before Settlement, yet there were certain influential men, who were expected to discharge part of the duties which would now be entrusted to Zaildars.

Fakir Shah, a zamindar of Fakirkote, was then nominated zaildar of the villages situated in the upper part of the Kamri valley. He received no pay in cash, but was allowed to enjoy his land amounting to 321 Kanals 10 marlas free of revenue. Fakir Shah died in 1894, and the muafi was released in favour of his son Kama Shah under orders of the late State Council No. 17, dated 18th August 1894. Kama Shah is called zaildar, but he is not expected to perform all the duties of a zaildar, unless he receives remuneration which may be fixed for the post of a Zaildar.

Taking into consideration the present condition of the country, its physical nature, its extensive area, and the fact that the district authorities have to constantly watch the people, who migrate to and from the neighbouring dependencies and Yagistan, I am of opinion that the introduction of zaildars into the existing administration of the country would considerably improve its working. A Zaildar may furnish a responsible link between the people and the authorities who will through him be in a better position to gauge their feelings and know their wants. He will prove very helpful in the settlement of various revenue and executive matters and also in the prevention and detection of crime. He will also prove of great service in the arrangements of supplies and transport, as he has done in the sister tahsils of Ladakh and Kargil, where he attends

regularly to the stages placed in his charge, and assists in the work being carried out smoothly. The Supply and Transport arrangements at Bunji are at present placed in charge of the police, and they are anything but satisfactory.

Although the tract is very large, yet three zaildars at Gilgit, Bunji and Astore, and one for the Kamri valley in the Astore Niabat will in my opinion do for the present. As regards their remuneration I think Rs. 60 p. a. for each of the Zails of Gilgit, Bunji and Astore, and Rs. 40 for that of Kamri valley will suffice. The annual expenditure will thus amount to Rs. 220 ; and I believe proper men for the purpose can be found without difficulty.

I see no use of creating collateral appointments of Safed-Poshes as well for this District, as they have proved of little practical service in the Ladakh District, which more or less resembles the tract under report. The Wazir wazarat says as follows :—

"As far as I know the institution of Zaildars has fared differently in different places. In Kashmir valley, it has done worst. There the Zaildars, instead of proving a useful link between the people and the authorities as often as not have misled authorities and abused their position. It may be that the method of using the Zaildar Agency, and not the Agency itself, may be responsible for such results.

"Conditions in this Wazarat are somewhat different to those in Kashmir; and if the Zaildars have proved a success in the sister Wazarat of Ladakh, they might prove equally so here. Anyhow the Zaildars would prove useful in arrangements of transport and supplies on the stages, and this alone would justify their creation.

"I am quite at one with you in the opinion that creation of collateral appointments of Safed-Poshes would be useless.

"As to the Zaildari circles, I would propose the following :—

Gilgit circle :—This would consist of old limits of Gilgit Tahsil, exclusive of the then Bunji Niabat.

Bunji circle :—This would be conterminous with the old Bunji Niabat charge, namely, Haramosh, Bunji and Sali and Paiot ilakas.

Astore circle :—All the villages of Astore Niabat excluding the villages of Chhoogam, Mir Malik and Kamri villages.

Kamri circle :—The present Taffadari villages of Kamri nalla with the addition of Mir Malik and Chhoogam villages. It is necessary that Chhoogam and Mir Malik should go under the Kamri Zail as even under present Res arrangements for Rattu camp, Kamri nalla Mir Malik and Chhoogam are conjointly responsible.

"As to the remuneration of Zaildars I think the rates proposed by you would meet the requirements of the case. The amount should, I think be provided in the Revenue Budget."

The Political Agent Gilgit, was addressed by me to express his opinion in the matter. No official reply has yet been received from him, but he gave me to understand that he generally agreed with the proposals made in this behalf.

121. The Jagir and muafi files are under revision, and will be submitted Jagir and muafi files. in due course.

122. There are the following 2 State Rakhs in this Wazarat, which are situated in the Astore Niabat.

- (1) Rakh Idgah
- (2) Rakh Chongra

In addition to these there is a State garden in Gurikot, of which grass is annually put to auction.

The grass of Idgah Rakh is looked after and watered by a zamindar, who is paid Rs. 4 p. a. The zamindars of Idgah, Bullan and Partabpur are responsible for repairs to the kuhl irrigating this Rakh without any charge. The villages of Chhugam, Zaipur, Tarishing, Chorit, Pakora, Naugam, Phina, Idgah, Partabpur, Bullan and Mir Malik are entrusted with the cutting of its grass, and its carriage up to the Niabat premises. These people are also responsible for watch and ward of the stored grass, until it is taken delivery of by the Commissariat Department. For all this responsibility they get only nominal wages of Rs. 10 p. a., which is any thing but fair.

Similar arrangements are also made for the Chongra Rakh grass.

The zamindars of villages adjoining Astore are desirous of getting these 2 Rakhs for cultivation. It cannot be gainsaid that no income would accrue from the sale proceeds of grass of these Rakhs, if full wages for their maintenance etc., were paid to the zamindars. At present almost every thing is got done by Kar-begar, which remains the subject of complaint every now and then. I am of opinion that considering all things, if the object of supply of grass to the Commissariat Department is also meant to be achieved, the Rakhs in question may well be leased out to that department, and they will make their own arrangements to look after the Rakhs. This will save a good deal of unnecessary trouble at present caused to the zamindars. The arrangement will, it is hoped, work very well as it is doing in Gilgit and Bunji, where Commissariat Department are managing their own Rishka farms with success.

The Gurikot garden affords a charming view of the locality, and may be preserved as before. It serves as a suitable camping ground for touring officers of the district. The zamindars should not, however, be called upon to cut its grass for storage, but it would be better to put the standing grass to auction.

The Sakmal village-Rakh has already been broken up with proper permission, and the cultivated area has been measured up in the present Settlement, and will be assessed to revenue. Nothing more now therefore be said as to the disposal of this area.

The Wazir Wazarat agrees with me as to the preservation of the Gurikot garden. Regarding the Idgah and Chongra Rakhs he is of opinion that relief can be afforded to the zamindars either by auctioning the standing grass, or by renting the Rakhs to the Supply and Transport Department, if they agree to it.

123. I have obtained information from the Wazarat office regarding revenue realised by the State from the neighbouring Political districts, which are not under consideration in this Report. It appears that some of them pay a sort of tribute in kind, while others pay fluctuating amount of revenue in cash. Of these Punial was once under the

administrative control of Gilgit Wazarat, but was subsequently attached to the Political districts. It was, therefore, assessed to Hukmi Kharid grain at the last Settlement. Brief information regarding each ilaka is noted below :--

- (1) Kharid revenue worth Rs. 1800 is annually taken from the Punial ilaka. An advance of Rs. 1800 is made by the Wazir Wazarat to the Political Agent, who recovers grain for that amount at the rate of 24 seers per rupee, and delivers it to the Supply and Transport department like other Hukmi Kharid grain. The price of this grain is recovered by the Accountant General from the Supply and Transport department. As a rule, grains other than giram are only taken as Kharid from Punial.
- (2) From the Political ilakas of Gupis, Yasin, Koh and Ghizar fluctuating amount of cash revenue is annually realised by the Political authorities, and remitted to the Wazarat for credit to the State. In Sambat 1972 the amount thus realised was Rs. 140. It is understood that realisation is made mainly in kind and sale proceeds remitted for credit to the State. No facts regarding realisation and sale rates are forthcoming. Previous to this, the amount was larger, but 100 maunds of grain have recently been remitted by the Darbar in favour of Khan Bahadur Raja Murad Khan, Governor of Ghizar and Koh, vide Chief Minister's endorsement No: 7780 dated 28th January 1915 to the Revenue Minister.

A new scheme giving enhanced revenues to the State has recently been sanctioned for these ilakas, but it has been kept in abeyance, pending another visit of the Political Agent to these districts, when he intends to submit his revised proposals on the subject after further discussing the whole question with the local officials, vide Chief Minister's endorsement No: 737/E-6-07 dated 30th May 1916 to the Revenue Minister.

- (3) From Chilas ilaka a fixed cash revenue of Rs. 2739 is realised by the Political authorities and credited to the State annually. In Wazarat Kistbandi, Chilas is shown as Mahal of Gilgit tehsil for purpose of this revenue.
- (4) From Gor ilaka an annual Nazarana of one Tulu 5 Rattis gold and 14 head of goats are brought to the Wazarat by the Gor Motbars. The gold is credited to the State Treasury as such. The goats are sold, and after paying Rs. 5 as Inam to the Gor Motbars the remaining sale proceeds, about Rs. 107 or so, are credited to the State.
- (5) From Darel an annual tribute of 4 Tulus 2 mashas of gold is presented by Raja Pakhtun Wali at the time of Political darbar, and the same is credited to the treasury.

(6) The Mirs of Hunza and Nagar also present at the Political darbar their annual gold tribute as below : -

Hunza	...	...	17 Tolas + mashas
Nagar	...	...	18 Tolas

This is kept in deposit in the Gilgit treasury, and is subsequently carried to Srinagar by Hunza Nagar-Vakils and presented there to His Highness the Maharaja Sahib Bahadur.

124. It is my pleasant duty to express my sense of appreciation for those who in one way or the other facilitated the work of the Settlement of this District.
Notice of officers.

M. Mohamad Abdullah B.A., the Wazir Wazarat, helped me unsparingly, and our mutual relations have been more than friendly.

L. Udhoo Ram, Tahsildar, was ever prompt and zealous in all what he was asked to do, and I wish his services to the Settlement department may be brought to the special notice of the Revenue Minister.

B. Fakir Chand, head clerk Settlement office, works well, and takes interest in his duties. He checked assessment statistics carefully. Lala Nand Lal, Settlement Naib Tahsildar, has worked hard and satisfactorily. Pandit Durga Das, Sadar Kanungo, has worked hard and well in the vernacular office. He is an honest man with thorough knowledge of his work.

125. Before concluding this report I must express my deep sense of gratitude for the valuable help very kindly offered to me by
Acknowledgment. Mr. W. S. Talbot, C. I. E., I. C. S., Settlement Commissioner, Jammu and Kashmir State, in the discharge of my duties as Settlement Officer in the Frontier districts. I must acknowledge that whenever there was a difficulty in my way to encounter his advice was always prompt and opportune, and I never failed to tide over it ; and the success of my career in the State has been mainly due to the strict compliance with his instructions given to me from time to time.

THAKAR SINGH,

Dated 15th August 1916.

Settlement Officer, Gilgit.

GLOSSARY AND APPENDICES
OF
ASSESSMENT REPORT GILGIT



A GLOSSARY OF THE VERNACULAR TERMS USED IN
THE REPORT.

A

Alubukhara ...	...	... A fruit tree.
Amla ...	...	... Establishment.
Assami ...	...	... A superior tenant holding direct from the State and paying revenue only.

B

Bakla ...	...	... Beans.
Balti ...	...	... An inhabitant of Baltistan.
Banafsha ...	...	... The violet.
Banjar ...	...	... Fallow.
Banjar Jadid	...	... New Fallow.
Banjar Kadim	...	... Old Fallow.
Bedzar ...	...	... Willow plantations.
Begar ...	...	... Forced labour.
Berun ...	...	... Outside.
Bhooti ...	...	... Pertaining to Bhootas (natives of the district).
Bhusa ...	...	... Husks.

C

Chak ...	...	... Land acquired under Regulation No. 6.
Chakdar ...	...	... A Chak holder.
Chil ...	...	... Pine.
Chilghoza ...	...	... Edible pine.
China A kind of grain (Millet).
Chinar A tree.

D

Dofasli A land growing two crops a year.
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E

Ekfasli A land growing one crop a year.
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F

Fakir A mendicant.
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G

Ghars A kind of pulse.
Ghas Grass growing in Banjar plots.
Giram A kind of barley.
Girdawari ...	...	... Crop inspection.
Giri ...	...	... Kernel.
Guchhi ...	...	... Morel.

H

Hadbast	Boundary.
Harkara	A mail runner.
Hukmi Kharid	Forced purchase.

I

Ilaka	A tract.
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J

Jagir	Revenue assignment.
Jama	Revenue.
Jhula	Rope bridge.

K

Kahcharai	Grazing.
Kah karisham	...	...	A kind of grass.
Kamins	...	...	Village servants.
Kanal	...	...	A land measure, $\frac{1}{8}$ th of an acre.
Kangani	...	...	Italian millet.
Kanungo	...	...	A supervisor of Patwaris.
Kar-begar	...	...	Forced labour.
Karkuns	...	...	Settlement surveyors.
Khalasi	...	...	A menial servant.
Khali	...	...	Land left fallow.
Khalsa	...	...	Revenue due to the State as distinguished from revenue assigned.
Kharaba	...	...	Crop failed.
Kharif	...	...	Autumn crop.
Kharwar	...	...	A measure equal to 16 taraks.
Khudkasht	...	...	Cultivated by assamis.
Khush Kharid	...	...	Free purchase.
Kishti	...	...	A gold washing cradle.
Kuhl	...	...	An irrigation channel.
Kulth	...	...	A pulse of an inferior kind, mothi.
Kuntal	...	...	A kind of tree.
Kothiala	...	...	An official incharge of a State granary.

L

Lambardar	...	...	A village headman.
Lobiya	...	...	A kind of pulse.

M

Maidani	...	...	A name of circle.
Makki	...	...	Maize.
Maktab	...	...	School.
Malguzar	...	...	The person who is responsible for payment of revenue, ■ landholder.
Malikana	...	...	Proprietary dues.

Marla	...	...	... A land measure, 1/20th of a Kanal.
Mash	...	...	... A pulse.
Masha	...	...	... A weight, 1/12th of a tola.
Massur	...	...	... A lentil.
Mattar	...	...	... Peas.
Melas	...	...	... Fairs.
Mewa	...	...	... Fruit.
Milan Rakba	...	...	... Area in acres.
Minahi	...	...	... Deductions for uncultivated piece of land lying in or about cultivation.
Mohalla	...	...	... A subdivision
Molath	...	...	... Liquorice (<i>Glycyrrhiza Radix</i>).
Mons	...	...	... Musicians.
Motbar	...	...	... An agent, a manager.
Mothi	...	...	... A pulse of an inferior kind, kulth.
Muafi	...	...	... Revenue assignment.
Muharrir	...	...	... A clerk of an inferior service.
Mullahs	...	...	... Muslim priests.
Mung	...	...	... A pulse.

N

Nautor	...	...	... Waste reclaimed.
Nazrana	...	...	... Tribute.
Niabat	...	...	... A sub-division of Tahsil.

P

Padam	...	...	... A kind of tree.
Pahari	...	...	... Hilly, a name of circle.
Pattu	...	...	... Woolen cloth.
Patwari	...	...	... A village accountant.
Phali	...	...	... A tax.

R

Ra	...	...	... A ruler, a title.
Rabi	...	...	... Spring harvest.
Rai	...	...	... A crop disease.
Rakh	...	...	... Waste reserved for grass.
Ratti	...	...	... A weight, 1/8th of a masha.
Res	...	...	... A system by which a village or a group of villages supplies transport at stage.

S

Sadar	...	...	... Head quarters.
Safed-posh	...	...	... An influential man whose services are secured on payment of a cash allowance.
Safedzar	...	...	... Poplar plantations.
Sambat	...	...	... The era of Raja Vikramaditya.

Sanglakh	...	...	... A rock.
Sarhaddi	...	...	... Lying on the frontier, name of a circle.
Sarsing	...	...	... A tree.
Shaftal	...	...	... Clover.
Shali	...	...	... Unhusked rice.
Shamlat	...	...	... Land held in common.
Shilajit	...	...	... A medicine.

T

Taccavi	...	...	... An agricultural loan.
Tahsil	...	...	... A sub-division of a district in charge of a Tahsildar.
Takhmina Paidawar	...	...	... Estimate of produce.
Tarak	...	...	... A measure equal to 6 seers in Gilgit and 8 seers in Astore.
Traddi Land ploughed and prepared for sowing.

W

Wasilbaqinawis An accountant.
Wazarat District.

Y

Yak A Tibetan bull.
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Z

Zaid Additional.
Zail A certain group of villages in charge of a zaildar.
Zaildar An influential man appointed to have charge of a zail or a certain group of villages.
Zamindar	...	...	... A landholder.
Zardalu	...	...	... A fruit tree.
Zira.	...	...	... Carvi Fructus.
Zo.	...	...	... A bullock.
Zomo	...	...	... Cow

STATEMENT No. 1.

Milan Rakha.

District No.		Sub-district No. of villages.	Area	Details.		Cultivable.		Uncultivated.		Cultivated.		Total Cultivated.																			
				Settlement	Returned at present	Total area.	Uncultivable.	Settled Zer and Bed Zer.	Kach Sarker.	Total area.	Bed Zer and Saffed Zer.	Kach Kharlam.	Bamijar Saffed.	Other.	Total.	Total uncultivable.	Brunti.	Shibni.	Amati.	Kharal.	Nirai.	Isphari.	Hagh.	Total Cultivated.							
1	1st	29	Area	Settlement	..	19728	11159	X	3040	3040	59	49	373	193	X	674	3714	14873	1419	216	2902	9	44	X	128	10	127	4855			
1	1st	29	Area	Returned at present	..	1769	7532	1	X	2342	2343	4	5	X	35	1672	10	X	1776	4119	11641	1210	75	2204	21	1570	367	312	297	172	6128
2	2nd	27	Area	Settlement	..	2046	2499	X	X	5248	5248	X	X	25	773	480	126	X	1404	6652	15151	1465	X	2277	7	X	X	18	X	128	3895
2	2nd	27	Area	Returned at present	..	22453	9177	■	■	4921	4921	3	3	... 518	888	1772	24	X	3205	8148	17325	1099	X	2385	16	605	168	456	263	136	5128
3	3rd	24*	Area	Settlement	..	6813	2179	X	X	2642	2642	X	X	1	596	315	24	X	936	3578	5757	413	X	616	X	2	X	13	8	4	1056
3	3rd	24*	Area	Returned at present	..	3002	4292	2	X	3599	3601	1	X	10	2048	1146	12	X	3217	6818	11110	426	X	1094	2	276	12	26	54	2	1892
4	5th	80	Area	Settlement	..	46587	22837	X	X	10930	10931	X	X	85	1418	1168	343	X	3014	13944	36781	3297	216	5795	16	46	X	159	18	259	9806
4	5th	80	Area	Returned at present	..	53224	20991	25	X	10862	10887	8	5	528	2971	4590	96	X	8198	19058490076	2735	75	5683	39	2451547	694	614	310	13148		

Area of Raitu not included.

STATEMENT No. II.

Showing Average Area of Rabi Crops.

STATEMENT No. II.—Concl'd.

CROPS HARVESTED.												REMARKS.								
SOILS.																				
Paji Percentage	1395 58.7	456 19.2	43 1.8	116 4.9	70 3.0	46 1.9	5 .2	1 .1	180 7.6	3 .1	2 .1	5 .2	20 .8	...	2342 98.6	34 1.4	2376 1.7	359 58	2735 75	
Bruin Percentage	12 70.6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	294 ...	...	100 ...	17 ...	...	...	...
Awaji Percentage	2618 58.2	605 15.4	45 1.0	107 2.4	183 4.1	160 3.5	12 3	9 2	528 11.7	14 .3	6 .2	21 .5	33 .7	...	4433 98.5	68 1.5	4501 ...	1182 ...	5683 ...	
Shini Percentage	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25 ...	...	26 100	...	26 ...	13 ...	39 ...
Das Percentage	698 60.2	82 7.1	15 1.3	9 0.8	33 2.8	35 3.0	34 2.9	9 1.9	151 13.0	6 .5	10 .9	3 .3	4 .3	...	1093 94.3	66 5.7	1159 ...	1292 ...	2451 ...	
Kharkat Percentage	121 52.8	34 0.4	1 5.2	12 10.1	23 1.3	3 0.1	2 9	1 9	21 9.2	1 0.4	218 95.2	11 4.8	229 ...	318 ...	547 ...
Niral Percentage	248 44.8	207 37.4	...	3 .5	5 .9	45 8.1	27 4.9	2 0.3	537 96.9	17 3.1	554 ...	140 ...	694 ...
Ishpati Percentage	606 100	...	100 100	...	606 ...
Bagh Percentage	310 100	...	310 100	...	310 ...
Total Percentage	5092 52.1	1474 15.1	104 1.1	247 2.5	314 3.2	289 3.0	53 .5	20 .2	908 9.3	24 .2	20 6.2	35 4	81 .8	...	9582 98.0	196 2.0	9778 ...	3370 ...	13148 ...	

Assessment Circle.

STATEMENT NO. III.

Showing Average Area of Kharif Crops.

S O U L S		C R O P S H A R V E S T E D.		T o t a l C u l t i v a t e d .	
Assessment Circle	Y T R S T.	N u m b e r	Percentage	N u m b e r	Percentage
Puji	22	780	50	53	22
Percentage	2.2	79.4	5.1	5.4	2.2
Bruin	63	6	1	4	1
Percentage	6.3	8.6	0.4	0.5	0.4
Avaji	23	604	111	221	4.1
Percentage	2.0	51.1	9.4	10.5	4.2
Shinni	15	...	...	...	...
Percentage	1.5	...	...	...	...
Das	2	89	22	136	4.5
Percentage	1.5	23.9	5.9	36.6	12.1
Khasiat	4	3	3	32	9
Percentage	5.2	3.9	3.3	41.5	11.7
Nirai	5	5	5	100	17
Percentage	5.5	5.5	5.5	100	22.1
Ishpati	101	101	100	241	100
Percentage	10.7	50.3	100	24.1	100
Bagli	101	150	1483	131	131
Percentage	10.7	50.3	148.3	4.4	4.4
Total	110	1483	101	442	216
Percentage	11.7	50.3	67.5	2.1	1.7

STATEMENT No. III.—*Contd.*

STATEMENT No. IV.

Showing total Crops Matured and failed with percentages on Area Cultivated (1972).

D E V A L. N.		Assessment Circle.		KUARIF.		Both Harvests.		Total Crops.		Total Crops.		Both Harvests.																				
								Area	Percentage	Area	Percentage	Area	Percentage																			
Area	...	2736	24	22	46	2	...	53	20	246	329	196	3890	137	4027	110	458	191	2442	216	131	11	250	55	2892	55	2947	6782	192	6974		
Percentage	...	44.6	3.9	4	8	...	9	3	4	5.4	3.2	6.3	5	2.3	657	1824	2	3	72	3.5	22	3	...	4.1	9	47.2	9	48.1	110.7	3.1	115.8	
Area	...	1652	791	...	165	246	143	...	499	263	164	3924	57	3981	...	266	272	241	45	8	26	...	29	39	918	28	946	4842	85	4927		
Percentage	...	32.2	15.4	...	3.2	4.8	2.8	...	9.7	5.2	3.2	76.5	1.1	77.6	...	4	5.3	5.7	1.4	3	...	1	6	8	17.9	6	18.5	94.4	1.7	96.1		
Area	...	704	52	35	66	149	...	207	54	31	1768	2	1770	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	3	...	3	177.1	2	177.3
Percentage	...	37.2	23.4	4.3	1.8	3.5	2.7	...	11	2.9	1.6	93.4	1	93.5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	4	2	...	2	93.6	1	93.7
Area	...	5092	1474	104	247	314	286	53	20	952	646	391	9582	196	9778	110	1659	463	293	487	224	135	11	1	286	6	3813	83	3896	133.5	270.1	3674
Percentage	...	35.7	11.2	8	1.9	2.4	2.2	4	2	7.2	4.9	3	72.9	1.5	74.4	8129	3.5	2.2	3.7	1.7	1.2	1	...	2.1	8	29	16	29.6	101.9	2.1	104	

STATEMENT NO. V.

Crop Experiments, 1972.

Assessment Circle.	CROP.	SOIL.	No. of Experiments.	AREA EXPERIMENTED UPON.		TOTAL YIELD (IN SEERS.)		YIELD PER ACRE (IN SEERS.)	
				Katal.	Mari.	Grain.	Straw.	Grain.	Straw.
FIRST.	Wheat	Paji	12	26	13	1887	3738	566	1122
		Awaji	11	24	16	1176	2372	379	765
		Das-Kharkat	8	23	15	431	1218	145	410
	Giram	Paji	5	17	5	1245	2322	577	1077
		Awaji	1	1	8	100	220	571	1257
	Barley	Awaji	1	1	17	154	205	666	886
		Bruin	2	8	12	566	820	527	763
	Maize	Paji	1	1	3	74	160	515	1113
		Paji	9	22	10	1884	3587	670	1275
		Awaji	3	7	4	660	1230	733	1367
SECOND.	China	Paji	2	5	19	174	408	234	549
		Paji	2	8	5	141	305	137	296
		Mung	1	2	18	107	285	295	786
	Bakla	Paji	1	4	...	116	250	332	508
		Awaji	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Paji	9	22	16	1701	3760	597	1319
	Wheat	Awaji	5	8	19	543	1134	485	1014
		Das-Kharkat	6	10	10	272	624	207	475
		Niral	1	2	18	174	261	480	720
	Giram	Paji	2	7	...	640	1065	731	1217
		Maize	1	8	5	194	320	188	310
THIRD.	China	Paji	3	9	5	438	810	379	701
		Awaji	2	4	7	425	830	782	1526
	Trumba	Paji	1	2	4	260	500	945	1818
		Mattar	1	2	1	83	81	324	316
	Bakla	Paji	1	3	5	240	320	591	788
		Awaji	1	3	5	390	765	960	1883
	Rishka	Ishpati	1	2	5	...	470	...	1671
		Paji	1	2	13	200	300	604	906
	Giram	Awaji	1	3	10	218	367	498	839
		Paji	1	4	...	350	1115	700	2230
	Mattar	Awaji	2	5	11	525	959	757	1382

STATEMENT No. VI.

Showing live stock and population, etc. 1972.

LIVE STOCK										Mills.			
POPULATION.	NUMBER OF HOUSES.	BUFFALOES.		ZO.		ZOMO.		OYEN.		COWS.		TOTAL.	
		Male.	Cow.	Male.	Cow.	Male.	Cow.	Male.	Cow.	Male.	Cow.	Male.	Cow.
1	Second	29	2761	2496	3678	8935	2093	114	2207	...	4	2	...
2	First	27	2558	2577	4837	9972	1956	33	1989	3	...	9	...
3	Third	24	941	931	1745	3617	596	59	655	5	...	42	15
4	Tahsil	80	6260	6004	10260	22524	4645	206	4851	8	...	55	17
Number of villages.										Assessment Circle.		Settled No.	
Number of ploughs.										Sheep and Goats.		Working.	
Asses.										Not working.		Mills.	
19										31		30	
28										29		29	
27										30		30	
26										28		28	
25										27		27	
23										24		24	
22										23		23	
21										22		22	
19										20		20	
18										19		19	
17										18		18	
16										15		15	
15										14		14	
14										13		13	
13										12		12	
12										11		11	
10										9		9	
8										7		7	
6										5		5	
4										3		3	
2										1		1	
1										0		0	

Figures of Rattu not included.

STATEMENT NO. VII.

Showing Cultivating occupancy (Area in Acres.)

Cultivated Area		Area cultivated by tenants paying rent		Details of rents in kind and area on which rents are paid by tenants at will.										Average Cash rent per acre for area columns 12 and 22.																
				With right of occupancy.					Without right of occupancy.							Kind rents.														
DETAILS		Khetas.		Village revenue rates.	Other rents.	Cash rents.	Kind rents.	Cash rents.	Other rents.	Village revenue rates.	Other rents.	Cash rents.	Total rents.	By fixed produce.	One-fourth or less than.	One-third or less than.	Two-fifths or more.	Half produce or more.	Kind rents.	Total rents.	By fixed produce.	One-fourth or less than.	One-third or less than.	Two-fifths or more.	Half produce or more.	Kind rents.	Total rents.			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28			
First.	Holding	...	...	220	2749	2969	2338	206	27	...	...	208	22	168	425	...	...	148	...	...	16	164	154	11	3	5	5	4
Area	...	...	...	237	3891	6128	5617	52	18	...	...	208	29	164	419	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Second.	Holding	14	2326	2340	1839	125	13	...	11	206	15	131	376	81	51	132	32	1	3	6	6	8
Area	...	...	...	...	...	5128	5128	4655	22	9	...	100	205	5	132	451	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Third.	Holding	16	988	1004	666	79	1	149	69	40	259	39	1	40	331	3	0	2	0	
Area	...	...	...	12	1880	1892	1514	53	2	...	...	118	165	40	325	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
First.	Holding	250	6003	6313	4843	410	41	...	11	563	106	339	1091	68	68	336	517	15	6	2	9	8	
Area	...	...	...	249	12899	13148	11771	167	29	...	100	531	199	336	1195	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

STATEMENT No. VIII.

Showing the monthly rainfall (in inches) of the last 20 years at Gilgit.

STATEMENT No. IX.

Monthly Abstract of Meteorological Observations recorded at Gilgit During 1905 and 1915.

147

Name of months.	YEAR 1905.			YEAR 1915.		
	Range of Minimum Thermometer.	Range of Maximum Thermometer.	Difference of Dry and wet Bulbs.	Range of Barometer.	Range of Minimum Thermometer.	Difference of Dry and wet Bulbs.
January	31.6 23 to 37	44.1 34 to 50	110.8	24.732 to 25.600	29.5 25 to 36	49.3 42 to 57
February	29.5 20 to 37	45.9 37 to 52	210.8	24.946 to 25.500	36.1 30 to 44	52.6 46 to 58
March	40.1 31 to 50	56.5 45 to 64	14	24.934 to 25.612	46.5 37 to 56	68.6 57 to 80
April	50.5 40 to 60	66.8 45 to 80	16	25.000 to 25.430	53.0 43 to 64	74.8 61 to 88
May	59.6 51 to 70	82.0 61 to 93	21	25.104 to 25.324	63.3 56 to 69	92.1 81 to 97
June	65.7 55 to 73	90.5 68 to 104	21	24.966 to 25.220	65.0 60 to 72	92.0 83 to 104
July	71.7 61 to 83	97.0 80 to 108.4	29	24.812 to 25.012	70.0 64 to 78	96.5 82 to 106
August	71.2 62 to 79	98.0 85 to 108.2	24	24.828 to 25.176	70.2 60 to 78	96.4 75 to 102
September	61.4 52 to 75	81.6 60 to 101.4	19	24.964 to 25.306	64.8 55 to 70	92.7 77 to 97
October	53.4 46 to 60	75.8 65 to 86	15	25.202 to 25.432	53.5 46 to 60	80.2 69 to 86
November	41.7 34 to 50	65.1 53 to 73	11	25.264 to 25.632	41.4 34 to 47	67.6 60 to 76
December	33.9 27 to 41	47.7 38 to 55	9	25.060 to 25.490	31.5 26 to 40	52.5 42 to 62
Average	50.9	70.9	...	25.186	52.1	76.3
					...	25.238

STATEMENT No. X

Showing trees in Gilgit.

DETAIL.		FRUIT TREES.										FRUITLESS TREES.													
		Almonds.	Apples.	Pear.	Walnut.	Grape.	Mulberry.	Cherry.	Quinces.	Gardalu.	Alabukhara.	Chilghozva.	Willow.	Sar Sing.	Other.	Total.	Grand Total.								
1		3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	19	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Full grown		44	370	8594	2464	882	106	1365	6195	29524	2035	6	54	5	...	208	54652	16786	2845	459	2269	9963	32322	86974	
Young		34	962	9591	1459	830	122	637	1273	12858	2064	3	19	5	...	...	128	29985	10488	11584	103	2413	5169	29757	59742
Total		78	4132	18185	3923	1712	228	2002	7468	42382	4099	9	73	10	...	...	336	84637	27274	14429	562	4682	15132	62079	146716
Full grown		6	5172	9691	286	1393	226	1665	1109	3747	434	...	1	11	1583	1	25325	10710	2836	29	1259	8845	23679	49004	
Young		9	1001	5024	108	886	118	1162	224	2487	377	...	...	...	1064	...	12462	9553	3610	11	1146	5458	19758	32220	
Total		15	6173	14715	394	2279	344	2827	1333	6234	811	...	1	13	2647	1	37787	20243	6446	40	2405	14303	43437	81224	
Full grown		...	38	531	...	390	1	39	...	6	...	...	1	...	332	...	1338	4614	10	...	11	7741	12376	13714	
Young		...	1	...	122	...	429	2	26	1	13	3	...	...	1	101	...	699	7740	17	...	...	5615	13372	14071
Total		...	1	38	653	...	819	3	65	1	19	3	...	...	1	433	...	2037	12354	27	...	11	13356	25748	27785
Full grown		50	8380	18816	2750	2665	333	3069	7304	33277	2469	6	54	7	11	1915	209	81315	32110	5691	488	3539	26549	68377	149692
Young		44	1963	14737	1567	2145	242	1825	1498	15358	2444	3	19	5	3	1165	128	43146	27761	15211	114	3559	16242	62887	106033
Total		94	10343	35553	4317	4810	575	4894	8802	48635	4913	9	73	12	14	3080	337	124461	59871	20902	602	7098	47791	131264	255725



STATEMENT

Produce

FIRST.	Assessment Circle.	Soil.	DETAILS.	RABI CROPS.												
				Wheat.	Giran.	Barley.	Maize.	China and Kangni.	Mash.	Mung.	Matar ghangs and Bakla.	Massur.	Mothi.	Rishka & Shaf. tal.	Others (Vegetables & fruits).	Total Matured.
P. A. J. L.	BRUIN.	AWAJI.	Area ...	812	115	16	24	...	5	1	20	...	1	5	5	1904
			Produce per acre...	480	500	490	580	...	240	230	470	...	180	...	...	...
			Total produce ...	389760	57500	7840	13920	...	1200	230	9400	...	180	...	...	480030
			Rate per Md. in annas	40	36	36	32	...	40	40	32	...	20	...	...	...
			Price Rs. ...	24360	3235	441	696	...	75	14	470	...	6	31	60	29388
S. H. N. L.	DAS & KHARKAT.	SHINNI.	Area ...	12	...	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	17
			Produce per acre...	390	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
			Total produce ...	4680	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4680
			Price Rs. ...	293	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31	...	324
			Area ...	1306	78	5	12	1	12	9	103	4	5	23	5	1563
N. R. L.	ISHPARI.	BACH.	Produce per acre...	390	410	400	470	410	200	190	380	380	150	...	...	...
			Total produce ...	509340	31980	2000	5640	410	2400	1710	39140	1520	750	...	...	594890
			Rate per Md. in annas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
			Price Rs. ...	31834	1799	113	282	15	150	107	1957	95	23	144	60	36579
			Area ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14	14
T. O. T.	NIRAL.	NIRAL.	Price Rs. ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	168	168	168
			Area ...	518	19	1	7	1	36	10	82	2	9	7	...	692
			Produce per acre...	260	275	265	340	270	180	170	280	280	120	...	...	...
			Total produce ...	134680	5225	265	2380	270	6480	1700	22960	560	1080	...	...	175600
			Price Rs. ...	8417	294	15	119	10	405	106	1148	35	34	44	...	10627
T. O. T.	NIRAL.	NIRAL.	Area ...	88	28	...	3	...	...	18	...	2	...	...	...	139
			Produce per acre...	320	330	...	380	...	...	310	...	140	...	...	...	...
			Total produce ...	28160	9240	...	1140	...	...	5580	...	280	...	...	...	44400
			Price Rs. ...	1760	519	...	57	...	...	279	...	91	...	...	...	2624
			Area ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	289	...	289
T. O. T.	NIRAL.	NIRAL.	Price Rs. ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1806	...	1806
			Area ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	172
			Price Rs. ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2064	...	2064
			Area ...	2736	240	22	46	2	53	20	223	6	17	329	196	3890
			Total produce ...	1066620	103945	10105	23080	680	10080	3640	77080	2080	2290	...	...	1299600
T. O. T.	NIRAL.	NIRAL.	Price Rs. ...	66664	5847	569	1154	25	630	227	3854	130	72	2056	2352	83580

No. XI.

Estimate, (areas in acres, values in even rupees).

KHARIF CROPS.

Shali.	Maize.	Chana and Kangni	Trumba.	Mash.	Mung.	Lobiya	Mothi.	Cotton.	Tobacco.	Kishka and Shafta.	Other (Vege- tables).	Total Matured.	Total Matured both Crops.	Kamin's dues.	Balance divisible.	State Share at 27 per cent.	Cultivation.	Rate per acre on crops Matured.	Rate per acre on multi- vation.
22	780	50	1	53	37	1	41	4	...	...	22	974	1978	...	...	...	...	...	...
000	580	500	330	240	230	470	180	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1,3200	452400	23000	330	12720	8510	470	720	...	...	...	...	513350	993380	...	...	...	...	...	...
40	32	24	20	40	40	32	20	15	30	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
825	22620	937	10	795	532	24	22	60	...	264	26089	55477	832	54645	14754	1210	7-7-4	12-3-1	
63	6	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	70	87	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
500	470	...	...	...	190	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
35280	2820	...	...	...	190	...	...	...	...	...	38290	42970	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2205	141	...	...	...	12	...	...	...	...	...	2358	2682	40	2642	743	75	8-3-2	9-8-2	
23	604	111	1	221	124	...	50	6	1	7	11	1159	2722	...	...	...	...	...	...
560	470	410	280	200	190	...	150	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
12880	283850	45510	280	44200	23560	...	7500	...	...	...	417810	1012700	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
805	14194	1707	9	2762	1472	...	234	72	30	44	132	21461	58040	871	57169	15436	2204	5-10-9	7-0-1
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18	18	32	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	216	216	384	6	378	102	21	3-3-1	4-13-10
2	93	25	...	168	54	...	76	1	...	2	4	425	1117	...	...	...	...	...	...
350	340	270	...	180	170	...	120	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
700	31620	6750	...	30240	9180	...	9120	12	...	...	87610	263210	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
44	1581	253	...	1890	574	...	285	p. a.	12	12	48	4699	15326	230	15096	4076	1937	3-10-5	2-1-8
...	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	144	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	340	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	1700	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1700	46100	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	64	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	64	2688	40	2648	715	212	4-15-5	3-5-11	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	241	...	241	530	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1506	...	1506	3312	49	3263	881	297	1-10-7	2-15-6	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	172	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2064	31	2033	549	172	3-3-1	3-3-1		
110	1483	191	2	442	216	1	130	11	1	250	55	2892	6782	...	...	...	...	...	...
62060	770720	78960	610	87160	41440	470	17340	...	...	...	...	1058760	2358360	...	...	...	...	...	...
3879	38536	2961	19	5447	2590	24	541	144	30	1562	660	56393	139973	2099	137874	37226	6128	5-7-10	6-1-2

STATEMENT

Produce

Assessment Circle.	DETAILS.	RABI CROPS.										Total Matured.
		Wheat.	Giram.	Maize.	Chin and Kangni.	Trumba.	Matter, Ghars and Bakla.	Mothi.	Rishka and Shattai.	Others (Vegetable and Fruits.		
PAJAI.	Area	409	215	81	49	17	136	1	...	9	917	
	Produce per acre	440	470	530	460	320	440	175	...	...	...
	Total Produce	179960	101050	42930	22540	5440	59840	175	...	...	411935
	Rate per Md. in annas	40	36	32	24	20	32	20	Rs. 4.11 per acre.	Rs. 8 per acre.	...	
AWAHL.	Price	11248	5684	2146	845	170	2992	5	...	72	23162	
	Area	862	354	75	140	78	294	1	...	8	1812	
	Produce per acre	350	380	440	380	270	350	145	...	...	...
	Total produce	301700	134520	33000	53200	21060	102900	145	...	...	646525
SHANI.	Price	18856	7567	1650	1995	658	5145	5	...	64	35940	
	Area	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	9	10
	Produce	...	...	...	...	...	350	...	...	...	...
	Total produce	...	...	...	...	...	350	...	...	...	350
DAS & KHARAT.	Price	...	...	...	...	...	17	...	...	72	89
	Area	225	58	10	52	6	57	1	...	2	411	
	Produce per acre	260	275	340	270	170	280	115	...	...	...
	Total produce	58500	15950	3400	14040	1020	15960	115	...	...	108985
NIRAL.	Price	3656	897	170	526	33	798	4	...	16	6099	
	Area	156	164	...	5	42	8	...	...	...	375
	Produce per acre	300	320	...	320	210	300	...	...	...	...
	Total produce	46800	52480	...	1600	8820	2400	...	...	...	112100
ISHPATI.	Price	2925	2952	...	60	276	120	...	...	...	6333
	Area	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	263	...	263
	Price	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1233	...	1233
	Area	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	136	136
BAGH.	Price	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1088	1088
	Area	1652	791	166	246	143	496	3	263	164	3924	
	Total Produce	586960	304000	79330	91380	36340	181450	435	...	...	1279895
	Price	36685	17180	3966	3426	1136	9072	14	1233	1312	7394	

No. XI.

Estimates (areas in acres, values in even rupees).

KHARIF CROPS.										Total Matured, Crops.	Kamins dues.	Balance Divisible.	State Share at 27 per cent.	Cultivation.	Rate per acre on Crop Matured,	Rate per acre on Cultivation
Maize.	China and Kangni.	Trumba.	Mash.	Mang.	Nothi.	Rishka and Shaftal.	Other (Veg. etc.)	Total Matured.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
100	87	164	12	5	2	..	15	394	1311	...	..	..	..	..	..	..
530	460	320	230	220	175	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
5770	40020	52480	2760	1100	350	..	..	154480	566415	...	..	..	..	..	..	..
32	24	20	40	40	20	Rs. 4-II p. a.	Rs. 8 p. a.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2889	1501	1640	172	69	11	120	6402	29564	443	29121	7853	1099	6	..	7	2 6
85	126	120	24	3	16	..	13	387	2199	...	..	..	..	..	..	..
440	380	270	190	180	145	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
37400	47880	32400	4560	540	2320	..	..	125100	771625	...	..	..	..	..	..	..
1870	1796	1012	285	34	72	..	104	5173	41113	617	40496	10934	2385	4 15	7	4 9 4
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	9	19	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..
..
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	72	72	161	2	159	43	16	2 4 2 2	10 11	..
12	47	7	9	..	10	..	2	81	492	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
340	270	170	175	..	115	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
4080	11070	1190	1575	..	1150	..	..	19065	128050	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
204	415	37	99	..	36	..	16	807	6906	104	6802	1837	773	3 11	9 2 6	0
..	18	..	..	..	..	..	..	18	393	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	320	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	5760	..	..	..	..	..	..	5760	117860	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	216	..	..	..	..	..	..	216	6549	98	6451	1742	456	4 6 11	3 13	1
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	29	29	292	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	136	136	1369	21	1348	364	263	1 3 11	1 6	2
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	136	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1088	16	1072	289	136	3	2 1 2 2	1	1
206	272	291	45	8	28	29	39	918	4842	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
99250	104730	86070	8895	1640	3820	..	..	304405	1584300	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
4963	3928	2986	555	103	119	136	312	12806	86750	1301	85449	23072	5128	4 12	3 4	8 0

STATEMENT

Produce

Assessment circle.	Soil.	DETAILS.	RANI CROPS.											Total matured
			Wheat.	Giram.	Barley.	Maize.	China and Kangni.	Trumba.	Maltar Ghirs and Bakla.	Massur.	Rishka and Shafat.	Other (Vegetable & Fruits).		
THIRD	VANI.	Area	174	126	27	11	21	29	24	3	...	6	421	
		Produce per acre	395	420	410	460	410	280	395	395	...	...	...
		Total produce	68730	52920	11070	5000	8610	8120	9480	1185	...	...	165175	
		Rate per Md. in annas	40	36	36	32	24	20	32	40	Rs. 3.2 p. a.	Rs. 6 p. a.	...	
		Price Rs.	4295	2977	623	253	323	254	474	74	...	36	9309	
THIRD	AWAH.	Area	450	263	40	20	42	82	131	10	...	20	1058	
		Produce per acre	325	350	340	380	340	240	325	325	...	...	...
		Total produce	146250	92050	13600	7600	14280	19680	42575	3250	...	...	339285	
		Price Rs.	9141	5178	765	380	535	615	2129	203	...	120	19066	
		Area	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	
THIRD	SUNA.	Price Rs.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	12	
		Area	76	39	15	4	3	32	33	5	...	1	203	
		Produce per acre	250	265	245	330	250	170	260	260	...	...	...
		Total produce	19000	10335	3675	1320	750	5440	8580	1300	...	...	50400	
		Price Rs.	1188	581	207	66	28	170	429	81	...	6	2756	
THIRD	NIRAI.	Area	4	15	...	...	...	3	1	...	...	...	23	
		Produce per acre	265	290	...	...	...	180	285	...	...	...	...
		Total produce	1060	4350	...	...	...	540	285	...	...	...	6235	
		Price Rs.	66	245	...	...	...	17	14	...	...	...	342	
		Area	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	54	...	54
THIRD	ISHTATI.	Price Rs.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	169	...	169
		Area	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	
		Price Rs.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	12	
		Area	704	443	82	35	66	146	189	18	.54	31	1768	
		Total produce	235040	159655	28345	13980	23640	33780	60920	5735	...	...	561095	
TOTAL.	BAGH.	Price Rs.	14690	8981	1595	699	886	1056	3046	358	169	186	31666	

NOTE.—Figures of Rattu not included.

No. XI.—contd.

Estimates (areas in acres, values in even rupees).—contd.

CROPS.										Rate per acre on Crop Matured.				Rate per acre on Cultivation.			
Rice	Maize	Wheat	Shaftal	Other (Vegetable)	Total	Matured.	Total matured both Crops.	Kanims dues.	Balance divisible.	State Share at 7 per cent.	Acre	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
Rs. 3.2 per acre.	Rs. 6 per acre.	Rs. 3.2 per acre.	Rs. 6 per acre.	Rs. 3.2 per acre.	421	421	421	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	426	5	14	1	5	13	0
...	...	...	...	...	165175	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...
...	...	...	...	...	9309	140	9449	2476	426	426	426	5	14	1	5	13	0
...	...	...	...	...	1060	1060	1060	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	339285	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	12	12	12	12	19078	286	18792	5074	1094	1094	1094	4	12	7	4	10	2
...	...	...	...	...	2	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	12	12	12	12	3	3	3	2	1	9	7	1	9
...	...	...	...	...	208	208	208	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	50400	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	2756	41	2715	733	288	288	288	3	8	5	2	8	9
...	...	...	...	...	23	23	23	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	6235	6235	6235	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	342	5	337	91	26	26	26	3	15	3	3	8	0
1	—	—	1	—	55	55	55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3	—	—	3	—	172	3	169	46	54	54	54	0	13	4	0	13	7
—	—	—	—	—	2	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	12	12	12	3	2	2	2	1	9	7	1	9	7
1	2	—	3	—	1771	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	561095	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3	12	—	15	—	31681	475	31206	8426	1892	1892	1892	4	12	1	4	7	3

STATEMENT

Produce

TAHSIL.	Assessment Circle.	No. of Villages.	Details.			MATURED.						
			BAGIT.	ISHPATI.	NIRAL.	DAS & KHARKAT	SHIKH.	PAJI.	Soil.	Rabi.	Kharif	Total.
			Area					2342		1368		3710
			Total produce					1057140		667830		1724970
			Price	Rs.				61859		32491		94350
			Area					17		70		87
			Total produce					4680		38290		42970
			Price	Rs.				324		2358		2682
			Area					4433		1548		5981
			Total produce					1580700		542910		2123610
			Price	Rs.				91584		26647		118231
			Area					26		27		53
			Total produce					350		...		350
			Price	Rs.				269		288		557
			Area					1311		506		1817
			Total produce					334985		106675		441660
			Price	Rs.				19482		5506		24988
			Area					537		23		560
			Total produce					162735		7460		170195
			Price	Rs.				9299		280		9579
			Area					606		271		877
			Price	Rs.				3208		1645		4853
			Area					310		...		310
			Price	Rs.				3164		...		3164
			Area					9582		3813		13395
			Total produce					3140590		1363165		4503755
			Price	Rs.				189189		69215		258404

* Figures of Rattu not included.

No. XI.

Estimate, (areas in acres, values in even rupees).—contd.

Kamins dues.	Rs.	Balance divisible.	Rs.	State share at 27 per cent.	Cultivation.	Rs.	Rate per acre on Crops Matured.		Rs.	A.	P.	Rate per acre on cultivation.
							A.	P.				
1415	92935	25092	2735	6	12	3	9	2	10	...	...	...
40	2642	713	75	8	3	2	9	8	2	...	...	...
1774	116457	37443	5683	5	4	1	8	6	2	...	...	...
8	549	148	39	2	12	9	3	10	10	...	...	...
375	24613	6646	2998	3	10	6	2	3	6	...	...	...
144	9435	2548	694	4	8	9	3	10	9	...	...	...
73	4780	1291	614	1	7	7	2	1	8	...	...	...
47	3117	841	310	2	11	5	2	11	5	...	...	...
3876	254528	68722	13148	5	2	1	5	3	8	...	...	...

STATEMENT No. XII.

Showing Cultivation of S. 1973.

Assessment Circle.	CULTIVATION.											Ghas.
	Paji.	Bruin.	Awaji.	Shini.	Das.	Kharkat.	Niral.	Ishpati.	Bagh.	Total.		
First ...	1210	75	2204	21	1570	367	212	297	172	6128	35	
Second ...	1053	...	2120	17	729	170	495	347	134	5065	1488	
Third ...	437	...	1058	5	340	14	38	58	2	1952	2175	
Tahsil ...	2700	75	5382	43	2639	551	745	702	308	13145	3698	

Copy of a letter No. 4797, dated the 11th October 1915, from the Settlement Commissioner, Jammu and Kashmir State, to the Officer on Special duty, Supply and Transport Department, Bandipur.

Realization of land revenue in grain in Gilgit District.

With reference to the Settlement operations now in progress in the Gilgit district, I have the honor to ask whether you can give me information regarding the requirements of your department in the matter of realization of land revenue in grain or other commodities.

2. The matter has not yet been fully considered, but it is obvious that there must be important changes in the arrangements at present in force; as far as I can judge at present it seems probable that the proposals may be somewhat as follows:—

- (i) Realization of revenue grain in Astore to be reduced as much as possible, or preferably be dispensed with altogether; there would be no objection to taking such things as grass, of which there is a sufficient local supply.
- (ii) As regards grass, the price for distant villages should cover cost of carriage, or it should be taken over locally.
- (iii) In Gilgit and Bunji revenue in grain can probably remain about the same at present. The Settlement Officer thinks that a certain amount of revenue rishka may also be taken.
- (iv) "Hukmi Kharid" should cease altogether; if this is impossible, the amount should be fixed like that of the revenue grain and should not vary from year to year and all such supplies should be paid for at full market rates.
- (v) In the case of revenue grain also the present very low prices will have to be superseded by rates representing, as far as they can be ascertained, the full market prices. Probably it will be best to fix these prices for five years at a time.

(3) These are only rough ideas, stated in order to elicit your views, though you will of course be consulted regarding the definite proposals when these are received. The main point at present is what amount of grain and other commodities does your department wish to be taken officially from the people, at different receiving stations, having regard to the fact that all such supplies would be charged for at their full value.

Copy of a letter No. 38/2177 dated 28th October 1915, from the Supply and Transport Officer on Special duty in Kashmir, to the Settlement Commissioner, Jammu and Kashmir State.

In reply to your letter No. 4797, dated 11th instant, I have the honor to state that I gather from this letter the inference that the realization of the land revenue in grain in the Gilgit Agency was adopted purely in the interest of the Supply and Transport Corps, whereas I have always understood that the realisa-

tion in kind was simply due to the fact that the inhabitants of the country did not make use of cash as a medium of exchange for their commodities, and, therefore, had none with which to pay their revenue, and further, that it was necessary in their own interest to compel them to cultivate a reasonable amount of land within the precincts of their villages, as otherwise owing to their natural laziness and apathy, they would live from hand to mouth, and in the slightest adverse circumstances be face to face with starvation.

I further understood that the Supply and Transport Corps as well as benefiting itself, was also conferring a benefit on the State by taking over grain which it would otherwise be difficult for the State to dispose of.

So far as rationing the Gilgit garrison is concerned, the Supply and Transport Corps could dispense with any assistance from the Gilgit Agency in the matter of food supplies, for the whole requirements could be sent up without difficulty from Kashmir. The question of rates alone affects the case. If there is a sufficiency of food grains in the Gilgit Agency, and if a large portion of these has of necessity to be taken as revenue, it would be absurd for the Supply and Transport Corps not to take advantage of the circumstances, and equally absurd, I think, on the part of the revenue authority not to take advantage of the Supply and Transport Corps as a convenient depository for its revenue grain. I still understand the obligation of the Supply and Transport Corps and the Revenue department as regards the disposal of revenue grain to be mutual, and this fact should, in my opinion, be taken into consideration when fixing the rate of this grain.

2. I am at a disadvantage in discussing the question of rates for revenue grain, as I do not know on what basis the land revenue has been assessed, nor how the present rates affect the inhabitants. If the revenue is still to be taken in kind, I do not think it would be inequitable to value the grain at somewhere near the cost of production, for to the best of my belief there is no "free market" for much of the local produce in the Gilgit Agency, neither is there any demand for export, and, in these circumstances, I do not see how a "market rate" can be fixed. If the price of the revenue grain is doubled, that is to say, brought practically up to political "Khush Kharid" rates, I presume that only half the quantity of grain will be taken as revenue, and the inhabitants will probably let the land on which the other half is grown pass out of cultivation. The Supply and Transport Corps will get half the grain it has been accustomed to get from the revenue authorities, and will pay double the price for that half, and the result, so far as I see it, will be that the State will get the same revenue as before through the Supply and Transport Corps, and pay nearly twice as much for rationing the Gilgit garrison, because the cost of the rations is based on the Revenue, Hukmi, and Khush Kharid rates.

Were the revenue taken in cash, no doubt the Supply and Transport Corps would have to arrange supplies without any assistance from the revenue authorities, and if there was a "free market" in the Gilgit Agency I am of opinion that the inhabitants would shortly find that they had to accept for their grain whatever price the Supply and Transport Corps chose to offer them, and

that this price would be a little over the cost of production. The inhabitants of the Agency may have other ways of obtaining cash than by selling their produce to the Supply and Transport Corps, but so far as I have been able to judge, after providing for their own consumption and for "Hukmi" demand there is very little left in the country, and the people are much too lazy and apathetic to embark on commercial adventure for any kind. My opinion, therefore, is that to raise the requisite cash for revenue the people would be compelled to cultivate a certain amount of grain for the Supply and Transport Corps, and to accept for that portion of grain a price that would be little over the cost of production. If they had a surplus, no doubt they would demand high rates for it, but it is doubtful whether there would ever be much surplus, and the Supply and Transport Corps has in any case Kashmir to fall back on if rates went unduly high.

As regards "Hukmi Kharid," whatever price the Supply and Transport Corps may have to pay, I do not think that the "Hukmi" can be abolished, unless the Supply and Transport Corps is to look entirely to Kashmir for its supplies.

The question of "free markets" and the "Hukmi" was very thoroughly discussed in Gilgit 2 years ago when Mr. Fraser was touring in the Agency. Mr. Fraser was a strong supporter of free markets and of abolishing the "Hukmi" so far as possible, but there were some dozen officials connected with the Gilgit Agency present, and it was agreed by them without a dissentient voice that the abolition of the "Hukmi" and the establishing of "free markets" was an absolute impossibility. Personally I have tried my utmost even in Kashmir to dispense with the Civil "Hukmi," but it is only with Indian traders that anything like a "free market" obtains. A Kashmiri will not stir without a "Hukm," and still less, I believe, an inhabitant of the Gilgit Agency. The "Khush Kharid" differs very little from the "Hukmi Kharid" except as regards rates. If I require supplies and if those that have them refuse to deal with me at "Khush Kharid" rates, or refuse to deal with me at all, the desired effect can be obtained by a reference to the Tahsildar or Wazir. In short, the people concerned require a "Hukm" for everything, and will not dispense with it even if to their advantage to do so. I am, therefore, of opinion that the "Hukmi Kharid" cannot be abolished. Even the "Khush Kharid" rates are fixed by the Political Agent, and are to all intents and purposes "Hukmi," but I do not know on what basis they are calculated. If there was no demand for supplies by the Supply and Transport Corps, I do not think the khush kharid rates would be anything like as high as they now are.

Regarding the "Hukmi Kharid" rates, I am again in ignorance as to what basis they are calculated on. In this case it seems to me equitable that the rate should be the same as the khush kharid rate, but as I have before explained I do not understand the term "full market rates". I cannot imagine a market rate in Gilgit, except so far as Indian traders and imported articles are concerned. I presume that the Political "Khush Kharid" rates represent fair prices, and are equivalent to full market values, but I still think that the requirements of the Supply and Transport Corps have a good bit to do with the fixing of these rates.

I will now reply in short to the points on which you desire information.

(i) We take roughly 1800 maunds from Astore in revenue grain. If from the Settlement point of view, it is necessary to reduce this amount or to dispense with it altogether, the Supply and Transport Corps must perforce accept the situation and make other arrangements. If the Astore ilaka still produces the required grain, I presume the Supply and Transport Corps will be able to purchase it at "Khush Kharid" rates, which ought to be cheaper than sending grain from Kashmir or from Gupis. The general effect will be that the state will pay more for rationing its troops and animals. The general orders for the Supply and Transport Corps are that it should invariably make the fullest use of local resources before resorting to outside markets, and I should deprecate any action that would tend to cut off our local supplies. I admit that I am looking at the matter mostly from the Supply and Transport Corps point of view, as the Settlement point of view is not before me.

So far, we have had no trouble in obtaining our requirements of fodder from Astore, and the present system of obtaining it seems adequate.

(ii) When fodder is brought from a distance for stocking, the Supply and Transport Corps invariably arranges to carry it. The only case in which fodder is not carried is when labour is demanded for cutting green fodder within easy distance of camps or posts, this fodder being intended for immediate consumption by Government animals passing through. In this case the Naib Tahsildar concerned details the coolies, and each man brings in his quantum of fodder. Such labour is rarely required, except on three or four occasions during the biennial relief of troops.

(iii) Noted. I agree regarding the rishka. The Supply and Transport Corps has to purchase 16,000 maunds of fodder "Khush Kharid" to complete its requirements, and the fodder is obtained with great difficulty. The more rishka that is forthcoming as revenue the better will it suit the Supply and Transport Corps.

(iv) As above stated, I am of opinion that "Hukm" cannot be abolished. There is no reason why the amount should vary from year to year. The variation appears to have been due to the Revenue authorities being unable to provide the amount fixed as "Hukmi Kharid", and not to any unwillingness on part of the Supply and Transport Corps to take all they are entitled to.

I agree that the "Hukmi" rates need revision, but I should like an interpretation of "full market rates."

(v) As above. Also, I think that "Revenue" grain can hardly be placed on the same basis as "Khush Kharid" grain, as explained in paragraph 1 of this letter.

As all recovery rates are revised every 3 years, and these fresh rates sanctioned by the Government of India, I suggest that it would be convenient if revenue rates were fixed at the same time and after the same period.

5. In reply to paragraph 3 of your letter I attach a statement (A and B attached) showing the minimum quantities which the Supply and Transport Corps requires at each receiving station, and which I think it ought to be able to count upon getting from the Gilgit Agency. The larger the quantity that can be obtained "officially" the better will it suit the Supply and Transport Corps.

I am of opinion that it is sound policy to endeavour to make the Gilgit Agency self-supporting so far as its garrison is concerned, and not to encourage it to depend for its essential supplies on importations from Kashmir. This seems to me to be the more necessary, when we consider the fact that the Agency is practically cut off from the rest of the world for seven months of the year. Should the forthcoming Settlement tend to drive the Supply and Transport Corps out of the local markets, or encourage the inhabitants to withhold supplies or to cease to cultivate a portion of their lands, it will but benefit Kashmir at the expense of the Gilgit Agency, and perhaps double the expenditure on the garrison for little countervailing advantage to the State. I speak under correction as regards certain points on which my knowledge is deficient, but I trust that I have put the point of view of the Supply and Transport Corps sufficiently clearly to be of use to you.

A.

Statement showing the average of grain received annually in revenue and kharid revenue at the following Stations in Gilgit Agency.

STATION.	Average of grain delivered annually in revenue.			Average of grain delivered annually in kharid revenue.		
	Wheat.	Barley or Giram.	Indian Corn.	Dhali.	Wheat.	Barley or Giram.
Punjal ...	... 58	... 1002	... 1588	... 398	254	269
Gilgit ...	... 1298	... 133	... 124	... 184	578	350
Bunji ...	... 133	... 421	... 821	... 561	11	47
Astore ...	... 421	... 1910	... 1947	... 2333	... 424	... 843
Total	... 1910	... 2753	... 2613	... 3292.	... 680	... 959
Added Column 3 to Column 2 ...	843	666	959	256	256	256
Total	... 2753	... 5905	... 5905	... 5905	... 5905	... 5905
Total of whole quantity of grain						* 9338 Maunds.

* N. B.—Entitled to take 731 Maunds in revenue and 3993 Maunds in kharid revenue, or 11224 Maunds in all.

Statement showing the minimum quantities of the under mentioned articles which the Supply and Transport Corps require annually at each of the following Stations.

(Revised Statement Substituted by S. & T. Officer's No. 58/2706 dated 23rd December 1915).

STATIONS.	Wheat (Maunds).	Indian corn and Barley (Maunds.)	Dhall Urad (Maunds.)	Dhall Mong	REMARKS.
Gupis	348	156	...
Gilgit	2628	2040	828
Bunji	1368	2532	396
Chilas	984	516	312
Astore	1200	1920	312
Total	...	6660	7356	2004	...
Add requirements of the Corps Scouts at Gilgit					
Gilgit	...	600	930	30	...
Total	...	7260	8286	2034	...
Deduct Total of Cols 2 and 3 of Statement (A)	...	2753	5905	680	...
Balance	...	4507	2381	1354	...

(a). This quantity has usually to be purchased locally at Political rates or sent from Kashmir if circumstances require it.

SRINAGAR :
23rd December 1915.

Letter No. 5211 dated 5th November 1915, from the Settlement Commissioner, Jammu and Kashmir State, to the Supply and Transport Officer on Special duty in Kashmir.

I have the honor to acknowledge with thanks receipt of your No. 38/2177, dated 28th : instant, which shows that in some respects I had misapprehended the situation. I defer a full reply, as the papers are at present in transit to Jammu.

2. I had supposed that the purchases of your Department in some of the "Political Districts" might help in arriving at a fair market price for grain in Gilgit ; but apparently the price paid there too is fixed officially, as in Gilgit.

3. No doubt the surplus produce of Gilgit and Bunji must in some way be transferred to your department, in the interest of all those concerned ; the amount to be taken and the method of taking it will, of course, require full consideration. In Astore the conditions are quite different, as there is no surplus produce.

Copy of a letter No. 333-C., dated 3rd December 1915, from the Settlement Commissioner, Jammu and Kashmir State, to the Settlement Officer, Gilgit.

In continuation of my No. 4799 dated 11th October, I have the honour to enclose copy of a letter No. 38/2177, dated 28th idem, from the Supply and Transport Officer, on Special Duty, with the enclosures, and of my reply No. 5211, dated 5th instant. The matter will presumably be dealt with in your Assessment Report; but there is of course no objection to arriving beforehand, by a preliminary discussion, at an agreement as to the general principles to be adopted.

2. The situation in Gilgit, up to a certain point, resembles that in Kashmir when the 1st Regular Settlement began; Sir Walter Lawrence has recorded that in 1889, when he began work, money prices did not exist; and, as you are aware, there was at first very considerable difficulty in persuading the zamindars to agree to a cash assessment at all. Here however, the similarity ends; Kashmir at that time, with the opening of the Jhelum Valley Road to Baramulla in 1889, had been given an outlet for its surplus produce, and at the same time very large sums of money passed into circulation, owing chiefly to the heavy expenditure on important public works; the country, moreover, has a large non-agricultural population, which had to provide itself with grain by purchase. The circumstances were therefore favourable for the growth of the large trade in grain and other produce, which has since established itself.

3. In Gilgit the case is very different; it produces a considerable surplus of grain, for which there is only one purchaser on a large scale, the Supply and Transport Corps, either directly, or through the State revenue and

kharid arrangements. I do not think there is much reasons to suppose that, as Colonel Webb suggests, large areas of land would go out of cultivation, if the people were left to make their own arrangements for disposing of their surplus produce; but they would have to deal either with the Supply and Transport Department, or with a small number of traders at Gilgit, who would readily combine, and the zamindars would probably have to accept very low prices: this is the reason for the reluctance of the people in general to ask for a cash assessment, though there is certainly a tendency now, (as I noticed during my recent tour), to wish that a larger proportion of the revenue than hitherto should be payable in cash.

4. It appears that I was mistaken regarding the grain transactions of the Supply and Transport Department in the Political districts, and that these purchases afford no better indication of true market prices than the rates officially fixed in Gilgit itself. Though grain is no doubt privately bought and sold to some small extent in Gilgit, it is obvious that the prices must be largely governed by the official prices, and do not represent the result of any free supply and demand.

5. In these circumstances it seems that the logical method of assessment would be an assessment calculated throughout in kind; but there are certain obvious difficulties in leaving cash altogether out of consideration in your calculations, and I expect that this is not really practicable. It seems useless, however, to try to ascertain market prices which either do not exist, or are based on the rates officially fixed; and probably it would serve the purposes of your estimate of the theoretical assessment to value the produce at the same rates which you propose should be allowed in valuing revenue grain and *hukm-i-kharid* grain. What those rates should be is a matter for discussion.

6. It appears probable that the ultimate result will be that more villages in Gilgit will have to pay the whole of their assessment in kind, for if the amount of *hukmi kharid* (which evidently must be taken in some form) is an annual fixed amount, there is no advantage in assessing part of the revenue in cash, and repaying the money as the price of *hukmi kharid* grain. Cesses must be assessed in cash, but there seems to be no advantage in realizing even these in cash, assuming that the total amount of the grain contribution of the village exceeds the equivalent of revenue and cesses combined. It seems fairly certain that the average village will have to contribute grain to a value far in excess of any land revenue that can be assessed, and the net result, therefore, is likely to be that most villages will pay no cash into the Treasury, but that on a balance of the whole transaction a certain amount in cash will be payable to the landholders.

7. In the Astore Niabat the considerations are entirely different, and the assessment will no doubt be made on more normal lines. It will probably not be possible to dispense with revenue in kind altogether, but I am strongly of opinion that it should be as low as possible.

Note on Gilgit Assessment Report

BY

M. MOHAMMAD ABDULLAH B.A.,
WAZIR-I-WAZARAT, GILGIT.

My thanks are due to the Settlement Officer for his kind and appreciative remarks on the co-operation of Wazarat Settlement work of this District. He invariably did me the favour of consulting me on all important matters. Consequently there is little left for me to say by way of general remarks. As there is still some honest difference of opinion on certain matters, I will confine this note to only such points.

Para. 39 (Irrigation).

The irrigation projects in this country are, owing to the physical nature of the place, usually difficult and expensive. Some projects have to be rejected as financially unsound. Almost all the projects have been contemplated. The chief obstacle is the expenditure involved. It is difficult to obtain funds in these tight years; but I agree with the Settlement Officer that at least the annual grant of Rs. 800 should be increased. For some projects even plans and estimates are ready, but funds have not yet been provided.

Para. 40 (Dairy Farms)

The idea of starting dairy farms at Gilgit and Bunji is an excellent one, but I find it difficult to express definite opinion on this, until the scheme is worked out in detail, and its financial results gauged.

Para. 42 (Tribes of Assamis).

It seems to me that the Settlement Officer's concluding remarks about Kashmiris of Gilgit are rather too strong. Undoubtedly the Kashmiri section of Gilgit population is characteristically wily and cunning, and takes pleasure in litigation and forming factions over any dispute. But they are not capable of doing any very serious mischief. Some of the people of Gilgit are "*Gawahi Peshas*," but in this respect a Kashmiri is not the only sinner. At the time of Settlement some increase in litigation, particularly land litigation of speculative kind, is natural. It may, however, be noted that the ordinary legal procedure is not quite suitable for Frontier. This frontier of the State should be governed on lines similar to those which are followed in British Frontier Administration. A Regulation similar to the Frontier Crimes Regulation, which is in force in Political Districts, would meet all the requirements of the case in Wazrat Districts.

Para. 48 (Horse and Mule breeding).

The experiment might be tried again. But there is only one Veterinary Assistant, who does both Supply and Transport Department and Civil Department work in both the settled and Political Districts. His half pay is debited to the State, and other half paid by Government. This is too much for one

man. This is also one of the reason for unsuccessful results. If the scheme to be tried again, a separate Civil Veterinary Assistant should be provided. The idea of cattle fair at the Annual Jalsa is a good one.

Para. 54 (Forests).

I generally agree with the views of the Settlement Officer. If some means could be devised to afforest the bare hill sides near Bunji and Gilgit, it would to a great extent solve the question of fuel supply to these places. To a layman these hill sides do not appear fit for afforestation, hence the necessity of expert advice.

Para. 97 (Grazing Fees).

Grazing fees are an innovation in this District. I agree that plough bullocks, cows, the small number of buffaloes, and ponies, should remain exempt from grazing tax, as the country stand in need of live stock in this respect. Though the people derive income from the sale of goats and sheep, but here in rural economy they are a necessity, not only for supplying manure for lands, but also for making ropes and Pattu cloth, which is the general dress material of the people. Another fact, which is to be borne in mind, is that goats and sheep have also to be impressed for Troops and Political Jalsa. For these reasons, coupled with the abuses attendant on internal bachh and realization of this tax, I am of opinion that grazing tax should not be separately assessed in this District. It may, however, be considered in the Land Revenue Assessment of estates. I do not know precisely why no grazing tax was separately assessed at last Settlement, but circumstances have not greatly changed since. The amount proposed to be realized is also not very large.

Para. 103 (Proportion of grains).

I am still of opinion that there might be difficulties in realizing different grains in strictly laid down proportions. In certain villages there might be failures of a particular crop. The individual zamindars might also change sowing of particular crops on the rotation system. As regards the abuses, they can never occur unless there is collusion between the Supply Agent and Tahsil officials, who take Supply Agent's receipts after the kinds of grains actually delivered have been noted therein. This can be checked by better supervision on the part of Tahsildar. In any case from Revenue points of view the zamindars' inconvenience and facilities in realization are more important than departmental abuse by Supply Agent.

Para. 108 (Establishment)

I still doubt if the reduction of Grain Moharrir of Tahsil would not be bad economy. Though Hukmi Kharid of grain has apparently been abolished, but practically it has only been changed into Revenue grain, as the total quantity to be delivered to the Commissariat remains about the same. On the other hand the quantity of Hukmi fodder has been somewhat increased. The Moharrir's work of keeping accounts of Revenue grain and Hukmi fodder would not thereby be considerably lessened. When the Revenue grain is weighed and delivered to the

Supply and Transport godowns at various centres, both Grain Moharrir and Supply Agent have to be present to make entries of Assamiwar recoveries daily. In Tahsildar's absence the Moharrir has also to see that the grain is properly weighed, and Zamindars who do not well understand the scales are not cheated. The Tahsil Wasil-baqi-nawis would probably not be available for this; and there would arise complaints of over-weighment, shorter receipts etc, as has often been the case in Astore. In Skardu and Ladakh I understand that the Kothialas, who are under Revenue Department, keep the Assamiwar recovery accounts. The Supply and Transport Department are concerned with total realization only. The Niabats do not affect the Wasil-baqi-nawis's Revenue account work, as their accounts are also maintained in the Tahsil.

Para 117 (Res and Begar).

The most important question in this district is that of Kar-Begar. The invidious distinction of some villages doing Kar-Begar by houses and other by individuals is no longer necessary, and should be abolished. The system is the relic of the times when certain villages were Head-quarters of local Rajas and Wazirs, who exacted a good deal of personal services from them, and in return treated them leniently in other Begars. The whole question requires separate treatment.

The proposed res of Bagrote villages at Pari requires trial. The only difficulty is that Pari is a wretched place for Begaries to stay in.

Para. 122 (Rakhs).

In this respect I have only to say that it is not desirable to break up these grass areas. Under the existing arrangements, though the zamindars have to cut the grass at small wages, they are relieved of forced supply of grass to the Commissariat to the extent of about 300 maunds. Relief can be given to the zamindars by

- (1) Renting the Rakhs to the Supply and Transport Department, if they agree.
- (2) Auctioning the standing grass.
- (3) Payment of higher rates of wages.

Any of these devices is calculated to result in decrease of income, but after all it is not so much the income, as preservation of grass areas and meeting of grass requirements of the Supply and Transport Department that is important.

It may also be noted that the standing grass of Chongra Rakh is being sold to M. J. Abdur Rahman for the last two years. This has this year realized a lesser income, but the zamindars have thereby been relieved of the Begar of cutting and storing of the grass.

Para 123 (Political Districts).

As Political Districts have not been settled, it is understood that the existing tributes etc will continue as before. As regards the Kharid Revenue of Punial, it seems fair that the commutation rate should there also be the same as in Gilgit. The quantity of grain at present delivered to the Supply and Transport Department should continue to be the same, only the amount of cash being increased.

(Sd). MOHAMMAD ABDULLAH,

Dated 15th September 1916.

Wazir-i-Wazarat, Gilgit.

**Note by Political Agent, Gilgit, on Assessment Report forwarded with
M. Thakar Singh's Letter No 758, dated the 14th August 1916.**

Para 99.

It is noted that during the 5 years 1968-1972, the average quantity of grain taken by the Supply and Transport Department in both Revenue and Hukmi demand has amounted to only 8222 maunds, against a total sanctioned demand of 10247 maunds assessed at the time of the last Settlement. I doubt very much, however, whether the statement of the Settlement Officer that the Supply and Transport Department has occasionally refused to take up to the full extent of the sanctioned demand, owing to having surplus stocks in their godowns, is strictly correct; as, in recent years at any rate, the Supply and Transport Department have, I know, had the greatest difficulty in obtaining locally their full requirements of grain, which, I am informed, amount to approximately 15000 maunds annually, and it is not likely therefore that they would have deliberately refused to take grain offered them at the very low hukmi rates, simply in order to purchase it elsewhere at the much higher Khush Kharid rates. What I think, however, may have happened, if it is a fact that the Supply and Transport Department has occasionally refused 'Hukmi' grain, is that a few years ago, when there was a good deal of dishonest practice going on, on the part of certain officials in connection with the delivery of the different kinds of revenue and hukmi grain, the Supply and Transport Department found their godowns full of the cheaper grains (Indian corn and barley), which was being foisted on to them instead of a due proportion of wheat, and they may have then refused to take more of this cheaper grain. I am unaware, however, of any occasion on which the Supply and Transport Department has refused to take wheat, at whatever rate offered, during the past 6 years, as they have never been able to get enough of this grain locally for their requirements.

Para. 101.

It is stated that the estimated total surplus quantity of grain for disposal in the districts under Settlement is only 10140 maunds. The actual amount, however, must, I think, be a good deal in excess of this, for reasons given in para. 102 (a) and (b) of the Settlement Officer's report, which do not appear to have been taken into consideration.

Para. 102.

The chief and undoubtedly only real objection on the part of the people to the system of 'hukmi' demand is, I venture to state, not the principle of this form of demand, to which the people of this Agency have been thoroughly accustomed since many years, but, obviously the low rates hitherto fixed for 'hukmi', for naturally the people object to part with their supplies on 'hukmi' demand at about Rs. 1-8 per maund, when, if this form of demand did not exist, they could dispose of these at Khush Kharid rates for double or more the price. The remedy in my opinion, therefore, for this state of affairs lies 'not in abolishing the system, which, in view of the local conditions of the Agency and the absence of any open market, is not only very convenient but more or less essential, but in fixing reasonable prices for the articles taken in 'hukmi'.

As regards the revenue to be taken from villages which are situated in cold climates, such as Gashu, Pahot etc, which the Settlement Officer proposes to exempt from a grain assessment, I would suggest that these villages should be assessed in future in 'Butter' which they can very easily give, and which the Supply and Transport Department equally requires, provided it is of good quality.

The proposal that Naikui, Hinzel and Chamogarh should pay their revenue in rishka is a good one, and is accepted by the Supply and Transport Department, but the commutation rate for this article should, I think, be 10 and not 12 annas per maund, as here-in-after explained.

Para. 103.

It is imperative, in my opinion, in order to prevent dishonesty and fraud, as well as confusion, that the exact quantity of each kind of grain to be delivered in revenue should be specifically laid down. The proportion of the different kinds of grain now proposed by the Settlement officer to be taken in future is approved by the Supply and Transport Department, and can therefore be accepted.

Para. 104.

I see no objection to the commutation rates proposed for wheat, dal, Indian corn, and barley being adopted, nor to their revision at fixed periods if this is considered necessary; but as I am proposing below that the revenue grain should be handed over free in future to the Supply and Transport Department, I am not sure, if my suggestion is accepted, whether any useful object will be served by such revision, as presumably it will not alter the amount of the demand from each individual.

Para. 105.

The figures of the Settlement Officer show that the net profit which the State expects to derive by the sale to the Supply and Transport Department of the various grains collected in revenue at the commutation rates proposed is Rs. 13,885. I would point out, however, in this connection that as the expenses of the Supply and Transport Department in Gilgit, which is maintained almost entirely for the benefit of the Kashmir Imperial Service Troops in the Agency, are borne by the Imperial Government and the Kashmir Darbar in the proportion of 3 to 1, i.e. out of all expenditure incurred the Imperial Government pays $\frac{3}{4}$ and the Darbar $\frac{1}{4}$, it will necessarily follow that, if the price of the grain which is now annually sold to the Supply and Transport Department for Rs. 9861 is increased, as proposed, to Rs. 23644, $\frac{3}{4}$ of this increase amounting approximately to Rs. 10000, will have to be borne by the Imperial Government, while the Kashmir Darbar so far from incurring any extra expense, will actually profit to this extent.

I do not know whether the above aspect of the question has ever been placed before the Darbar, but if it has not, it is for consideration, now that it has been, whether the Darbar would wish to continue the present system, or, as seems more probable, it would not prefer to hand over the revenue grain free

to the Supply and Transport Department, and thus reduce, and not increase the burden of the Imperial Government in this respect. It is for note that the present comparatively high rates for grain in the Agency are entirely due to the presence of the Kashmir troops there, and that, if these troops were not present, there would be practically no sale at all for the surplus grain in the country, which would consequently, in this case, either lie on the ground and rot, as used to be the case, I understand, in Baltistan, or it would have to be exported from the Agency at great expense to the Darbar and be disposed of elsewhere. In either of these cases the State, it seems to me, would lose a great deal more than if it handed over the grain free to the Supply and Transport Department for the maintenance of its own troops.

An additional reason, perhaps, why the Supply and Transport Department should be given the revenue grain free, if possible, is that it appears from the report of the Settlement Officer that the population of the Agency is increasing at a greater rate than is the cultivation in the country, so that it seems probable that, as time goes on, less and less grain will be locally procurable for the troops, in which case more and more will have to be imported from Kashmir, which of course will mean that the price of grain in the Agency will steadily go up and up, to the still further loss of the Imperial Government. Moreover, any increase in the recovery rates for grain of the Supply and Transport Department is very much to be deprecated, as these rates to a large extent regulate all other prices in the Agency, and if there is any substantial increase therefore in the Supply and Transport rates, it will undoubtedly tend to put up prices all round, and this will involve a general increase in the cost of living in these parts, and this is already sufficiently high.

To sum up, therefore, my proposal is that, while the suggested commutation rates should be maintained for purely revenue assessment purposes, the grain and fodder taken in revenue, with the exception of the small quantity mentioned hercaster, should be handed over to the Supply and Transport Department free of charge.

As regards the question of fodder, I have thought over this very carefully, and have come to the conclusion that it is absolutely essential that the requirements of the Supply and Transport Department in this respect should be met as far as possible by a hukmi demand, as fodder, unlike grain, cannot, owing to its bulk, be conveniently imported from Kashmir or elsewhere, and the people must therefore be made to produce a sufficient quantity of it locally, and the only way of ensuring this at reasonable rates is to have some form of 'hukmi'.

As regards the total quantity of fodder required, I am informed by the Supply and Transport officer on special duty in Kashmir, that his present annual requirements amount to approximately 25000 maunds, of which he gets about 10000 maunds from his own grass farms, thus leaving a balance of 15000 maunds to be obtained either by direct purchase from the people or by hukmi through the revenue authorities. A point to be borne in mind in this connection is that a proposal has, I understand, been recently sanctioned by the Government of India for increasing the present complement of 100 Government mules in the Agency to 200 mules, so that when this is effected the requirements of

fodder by the Supply and Transport Department will be greatly increased beyond what they are at present, and it is important therefore that the people should be required now to give all the fodder they possibly can in hukmi kharid, so that the Supply and Transport Department will not be dependent hereafter on Khush Kharid to a greater extent than is necessary.

The amount of rishka and bhoosa at present proposed to be taken by the Settlement Officer in hukmi is, I notice, only 400 and 6600 maunds respectively, or a total of 7000 maunds, *i.e.*, not quite half even the present requirements of the Supply and Transport Department. In framing this estimate, it would appear that the Settlement Officer has been guided solely by the present area of land under rishka, and he has not taken into consideration past conditions or what the people might therefore be made to produce. In this connection I attach a copy of statement, furnished me by the present Tahsildar in Gilgit in 1914, showing what the area under rishka, simply in the Gilgit group of villages, was in 1966 compared with what it stood in 1971, when Settlement operations were about to commence. It will be seen that during these 5 years the area (including both Rabi and Kharif) has been gradually and steadily reduced from 3609 kanals to 1041*, or by very nearly by $\frac{3}{4}$, and it is notorious that this reduction has been made solely from the fear that in the Settlement operations now proceeding land found to be under rishka, which produces 4 crops in the year, would for this reason be taxed more heavily than other kinds of land. The present conditions are, therefore, I hold, entirely artificial, and should not be taken as a guide for future assessments. At the same time I quite realize that the people cannot be expected to produce, all at once, the full quantity of fodder that they might and should, in my opinion, be required to give, but this difficulty can be overcome by allowing them a definite period, say 2 or even 3 years, within which to work up to the full amount.

As regards the price of hukini fodder, I am of opinion that a universal rate for this should now be fixed at 10 annas for rishka and 6 annas for bhoosa. The present rates of 12 annas and 8 annas respectively for these articles are, I consider, altogether too high, and as the present is an excellent opportunity for effecting a reduction, in view of the very favourable set-off the people are getting in the remission of the hukmi grain demand hitherto imposed on them, as well as by the greatly increased commutation rates allowed for their revenue grain, it should not be missed, as so favorable an opportunity is not likely to occur again in the near future.

In proof of the fact that 10 annas is really an ample rate to allow for rishka, I would mention that the Supply and Transport Officer in Gilgit has recently informed me that the average cost at which his department had been able to produce this crop on their own farms during the past year has worked out to about 9 annas, and, if this is so as regards the Supply and Transport

* 1041 is for one harvest; the reduction is actually about half.

Department, it must follow, I think, that the zamindar, with his infinitely more economical methods of cultivating, should be able to make a handsome profit out of it if allowed 10 annas, and if this is a fair price for rishka, then obviously I think, bhoosa is worth not more than 6 annas a maund. The above are the rates which I am now fixing for hukmi fodder in the Political districts of Punial, Ghizr, Yasin and Gupis, and it would be a good thing therefore if these rates could also be adopted for the Gilgit Tahsil and Astore. As a matter of fact, although the Settlement Officer states that 12 annas was the rate fixed for rishka at the last Settlement, this rate was subsequently reduced by Major Dew to 10 annas in 1909 and it remained at this rate until 1912-13 when I myself again increased it to 12 annas in the case of certain villages in consequence of the fact, as previously explained, that the people had then, owing to the fear of the approaching settlement, begun to reduce the area of their plots under rishka, and as this was causing the greatest inconvenience, I was anxious, if possible, by offering a higher rate to encourage them to grow more of this crop. I should explain in this connection that, when I came to the Agency in 1911, there was then an abundance of rishka to be had for all purposes at 10 annas a maund, so much so indeed that the Supply and Transport Department found it cheaper and more convenient to purchase their requirements in the open market than to grow it themselves, and they consequently gave up first their Gilgit farm and then the Basein farm, though they have since been obliged to start the last mentioned again. Apart from the fact that I think it is fairer for all concerned to assess produce taken in 'hukmi' demand at the same rate for all villages, since 'hukmi' after all is a form of revenue demand, though paid for, if the rates for fodder are not lowered now, the present high rates will in all probability become stereotyped for all time, and, in any case, they will, as already pointed out, be very much more difficult to reduce hereafter than now.

As regards the produce of villages situated at a distance from any centre, such as the villages of Minawar, Naltar etc., I agree that these villages must deliver their fodder at the prescribed centres at the universal rate proposed, and that nothing should be allowed for carriage, as this will undoubtedly create endless complications and difficulties, for it is certain that, if carriage is allowed in some cases and not in others, it will cause dissatisfaction, and this in its turn will probably lead to carriage having to be allowed in the end at varying rates for practically every single village. There is no reason, however, why favourable rates of carriage should not be offered to such villages as are prepared to bring in their produce from one of the fixed distant centres such as Sharote or Nomal to Gilgit, (carriage hire in this case being paid of course only from centre), and, if such an arrangement could be made, the Supply and Transport Department would, I am sure, welcome it, even if the rates proposed were somewhat in excess of present authorized rates.

The following 7 centres should, I think, be fixed for the delivery of fodder in the Gilgit and Bunji ilaqas *viz.*, Gilgit, Sharote, Nomal, Pari, Dainyor, Bunji and Damote. If the people of the Sai valley could be induced to agree to carry their fodder to Pari instead of to Damote, an extra centre might be fixed at

Chakerkote, and favourable rates of carriage allowed from this place to Pari. I agree that the quantities of, as well as the rates for, 'hukmi' fodder should be subject to revision every six years, as the general conditions during this period may easily change, demanding some modification in the present arrangements.

If there is to be an universal rate of 10 annas for 'hukmi' rishka, as suggested, this figure should also be adopted, I consider, as the commutation rate for the revenue rishka from the villages of Chamogarh, Naikui and Hinzil, as there is no reason why they should receive special terms.

As regards the supply of fodder and grain in bulk for the private requirements of officers and others stationed in Gilgit, I would recommend that the following procedure should be adopted, viz the quantities of the articles mentioned below should be withheld altogether from the schedule of the revenue and hukmi supplies to be delivered to the Supply and Transport Department, and placed, instead, at the disposal of the Wazir-i-Wazarat for issue, at the sanctioned commutation rates, to officers and others, as required viz.

Whea	... 100 Maunds.	} from revenue.
Indian Corn Barley	... 500 ..	
Bhoosa	... 600 ..	} from hukmi.
Rishka	... 1200 ..	

If, after meeting the above demands, there is any balance left over with the Wazir-i-Wazarat, the Supply and Transport Department should be required to take it over at the commutation rates, which of course they would gladly do.

This arrangement should not give any extra trouble to the revenue authorities, or to any one else, as its only effect will be that the zamindars concerned, instead of taking their produce to the Supply and Transport Department, will take it, under the same procedure as in the case of the revenue demand, direct to the officer's bungalow. The State on the other hand will directly benefit financially to the extent of the value received for the articles so withheld, which, otherwise, would be handed over free to the Supply and Transport Department.

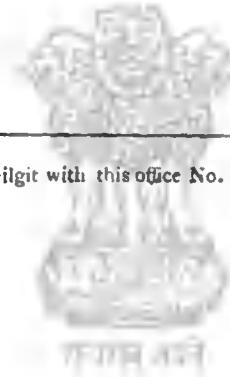
I have not touched in these notes on the fodder question in the Astore ilaqqa, as regards place of delivery etc., of the same to the Supply and Transport Department, as this requires further consideration on the part of the Supply and Transport Department, whom I have not yet had time to consult in the matter, but, generally speaking, the same principles should be observed in Astore as in the Gilgit district, and the people should be required to deliver their fodder at the place where it is required, especially as the people of the Astore ilaqqa possess any amount of pony transport for shifting it. If, however, the place from which the fodder has to be brought is considered to be situated at too great a distance from the centre where it is required to justify its being carried there free, then either an intermediate centre should be established from which nominal carriage hire should be allowed to the principal centre, or the Supply and Transport Department should be asked whether they require the

fodder from such distant villages. Any fodder that has to be shifted however, should I consider, be shifted by the people themselves, irrespective of the question of whether carriage hire is or is not allowed.

As regards the State grass Rakhs of Idgah and Chongra, the present arrangement under which the grass from these places is cut and disposed of certainly seems to be very unsatisfactory and to be in need of some readjustment, but the matter is one which primarily concerns the Supply and Transport Department, whom I have not yet been able to consult. The copy of the Settlement Officer's telegram No. 752, dated the 5th August 1916, which, it is stated, has been sent to me for opinion through the Settlement Commissioner has not yet been received by me,* and I am unable, therefore, to offer any further opinion at present on this point.

GILGIT
20th September 1916.

(Sd). A. D. MACPHERSON, MAJOR,
Political Agent in Gilgit.



* Forwarded to Political Agent in Gilgit with this office No. 3165, dated 17th August 1916. (It does not relate to the grass rakhs).

Sd. W. S. TALBOT.

Statement showing the Area under Rishka grass in Gilgit, &c., for Sambat 1966-71.

Year.	Gilgit Total.	Burmus Total.	Nowpor Total.	Naikoi Total.	Partabpor Total.	Khamar Total.	Jutial Total.	Sakwar. Total.	Minawar Total.	Danyor. Total.	GRAND TOTAL.
1966	725	470	706	873	275	117	94	48	196	105	3609
1967	561	303	852	820	225	87	86	27	201	111	3273
1968	395	353	708	616	163	79	109	20	178	124	2745
1969	426	284	618	671	107	80	88	8	205	74	2561
1970	542	184	320	331	73	61	60	14	198	93	1876
1971	473	83	47	211	37	22	20	4	101	41	1039 Rabi only.

Girdawari of Kharif 1971 has not been finished yet, hence figures are not available.

The figures for Gilgit include Shafseh.

(Sd.) UDHO RAM, TAHSILDAR,

Gilgit.

REVIEW
OF THE
ASSESSMENT REPORT

OF THE



W. S. TALBOT, ESQR., C.I.E., I.C.S.,

Settlement Commissioner,

JAMMU AND KASHMIR STATE.

1918.

Table of contents.

No. of para.	Subject	Page.
1.	Descriptive ; Gilgit	1
2.	Descriptive Astore	1
3.	The mountains	1
4.	Assessment circles...	2
5.	Rainfall and climate	2
6.	Communications and trade	2
7.	Fiscal history ; current Settlement ; arrears	3
8.	Classification of land	4
9.	Increase in cultivation	4
10.	Future increase of cultivation	5
11.	Population	6
12.	The people ; holdings ; debt	7
13.	Live Stock	8
14.	Profits from live-stock ; miscellaneous income	8
15.	Previous harvests	8
16.	System and character of agriculture	8
17.	Harvests selected for produce estimate	8
18.	Crops matured and failed	9
19.	Principal crops	9
20.	Crop yields	10
21.	Prices	10
22.	Cultivating occupancy, rents, kamins' dues, and half net assets	11
23.	Standard of assessment ; reasons for leniency	11
24.	Surplus produce estimate	12
25.	Assessments, 1st Circle	12
26.	Assessments, 2nd Circle	13
27.	Assessments, 3rd Circle	14
28.	Kahcharai assessment	15
29.	Financial results	16
30.	Assessments in kind	18
31.	Hukmi kharid grain to be abolished ; proposals regarding hukmi fodder	19
32.	Hukmi goats	20
33.	Supplies for officials and scouts at Gilgit	20
34.	Proposal of Political Agent, Gilgit, to make over revenue grain free to Supply and Transport Department	20
35.	Gold revenue	20
36.	Cesses	20
37.	Malikana	21
38.	Mills	21
39.	Ground rents	21
40.	Instalments	22
41.	Introduction of new assessments, and term of Settlement	22
42.	Rights in trees	22
43.	Nautor...	22
44.	Dairy farm	22
45.	Transfer of right of cultivating occupancy	23
46.	Horse-breeding	23
47.	Forests	23
48.	Wazarat establishment	24
49.	Kar begar ; supplies, and transport	24
50.	Kanungo establishment	24
51.	Zaildars	24
52.	Tribute of Political districts	25
53.	Notice of officers	25

Settlement Commissioner's Review.

ON THE

Assessment Report of Gilgit.

This report deals with the Gilgit district, which now consists of a single tahsil, and that tahsil, (with an area of 3200 square miles),
Descriptive. Gilgit. is much the smallest in the frontier districts*. It is fully described in the Report.

Report 1-6.

In Gilgit and Bunji (including Haramosh) the villages for the most part lie low near the Indus, which here runs at a height of less than 5000 feet, or on its tributaries, of which the Gilgit river is the largest. Except in a few estates high up the nullahs, the summer is very hot, and the winter, though severe, is not as cold as in Kashmir. Between the blocks of villages, where irrigation has made it possible to raise crops, is an arid desert of sand and rocks with bare hill sides around, and a climate in the summer comparable with that of the Punjab. Forests are not inconsiderable, but occur only far up the hills, or in the large nullahs such as Naltar, Bagrot and Haramosh.

2. Astore includes all the villages in the tract drained by the river of that name, which joins the Indus some distance below

Descriptive. Astore.

Bunji at the lowest point in the district (4326 ft.); but has a rapid fall, and at Astore, $2\frac{1}{2}$ marches up, runs at a height of about 7500 feet. Some 8 miles further up the valley divides into the two long and high nullahs leading to the Burzil and Kamri passes. Even in the lowest part of the valley the villages lie fairly high, and this tract has a much more temperate summer than Gilgit, and a colder winter, with heavy snowfall in the upper nullahs. Forests are consequently more extensive, and most villages have forests within easy reach.

3. Though the villages in a great part of the district lie comparatively low, the mountains by which they are surrounded are

The mountains.

on an enormous scale, of which the quotation in paragraph 4 of the Report will give some idea ; there are many peaks exceeding 22,000 feet, of which Nanga Parbat (Diyamir), 26,620 ft., and Rakiposhi, 25,561 ft., are the principal, with others somewhat inferior to them. Nanga Parbat, near the centre of the district, is an isolated mass of mountains, being in this respect unique amongst the great Himalayan peaks ; the others occur chiefly on the eastern border, where a magnificent array of great mountains surrounds the Bagrot and Haramosh nullahs.

The floods mentioned para. 6 of the Report, due generally to the bursting of glacier dams high up in the mountains, did much damage to bridges and communications, and in some cases to kuhls and small areas of land, but the cultivation is usually beyond the reach of the rivers.

*NOTE.—The Settlement Officer thinks that, when the Indus Valley route is opened up, Rondu should be added to Gilgit. It could be done, but I am not sure that it will be advisable, even when communications are improved.

4. The arrangement of Assessment Circles at the last Settlement, with

Assessment Circles.

nine circles for only 80 estates, was unnecessarily minute.

The system followed in Ladakh and Baltistan has now been adopted here; villages being divided into three classes with regard to their climate and cropping, irrespective of their geographical situation. This is the only reasonable method in a country of this kind.

The 1st Circle (29 estates) includes nearly all the hot villages up to about 6,000 feet, where two crops are generally grown and fruit trees are common. All of them are in Gilgit.

The 2nd Circle (27 estates) includes the villages at medium elevations, producing for the most part only one crop in the year, though there is a fair amount of double cropping, in character somewhat inferior to that of the 1st Circle. Two low lying estates are for special reasons added to this circle, which is almost equally divided between the higher villages of Gilgit and the lower estates of Astore.

The 3rd Circle has 24 estates, of which 19 are in Astore; these are the high cold villages, where double-cropping is practically unknown, and the crops are liable to damage by cold.

5. There is only one rain-gauge, that at Gilgit, which has a rainfall of only some 5 inches; but it is certainly not representative

Rainfall and climate.

of the district as a whole, and it would have been interesting to have figures for Astore, which has much more, though even there the climate is dry. Cultivation however depends, not on the local rainfall, but on the inexhaustible supply of water from the great snowfields and glaciers, or occasionally from springs; rain in moderation is beneficial at certain seasons when crops are on the ground, but at most times it then does more harm than good.

Places like Bunji and Gilgit are hardly health resorts, but the climate of the district is good on the whole; the range of temperature at Gilgit is considerable, from a minimum of 20° in January to 108° in the shade in July and August, while Bunji is considerably hotter. The winter is not long, and is much less severe than in Baltistan, at any rate in the lower parts, though the highest villages of Astore are buried in snow for a considerable part of the year.

If the climate is good, the people fail to make the best of it, as may be seen from paras 14 and 17 of the Report. In spite of the disadvantages due to their habits and mode of living, and in places (notably at Gilgit*, Bunji and Astore) a bad water supply for drinking, the people seem to be healthy on the whole. Goitre is rather common; typhus seems to be much less than in Baltistan; venereal diseases occur only to a small extent.

6. The district is very well provided with roads and bridges, including

Communications and trade.

five suspension bridges. All the main nullahs have good roads or bridge paths along them. Communication with Kashmir however is almost cut off during the winter, when the passes become

*The Water-Works recently carried out are of limited extent.

dangerous, and there is risk of avalanches in all that part of the road which runs through the Gurez Niabat. The passes are fit for baggage animals for only about half the year.

Communications with Baltistan are bad, the only route practicable for animals being that which crosses the Deosai plains, open only for 3 or 4 months. The other passes are high and difficult. The Indus route is a very bad cooly track, and there is at present no prospect of its being made passable for animals.

There is little trade, the surplus produce being almost all absorbed by the Commissariat Department, which in addition imports considerable quantities of grain, ghi, etc., from Kashmir. The exports are trifling, and are chiefly apricot kernels, (for the most part re-exports, coming originally from Hunza and Nagir), with a small amount of gold: this is in favour with Punjabis, and is mostly bought up by the sepoys and others stationed in the district, or by local shopkeepers. Gilgit, Bunji and Astore are the only places which can be considered trade centres even in a small way.

7. An account of the pre-Dogra revenue arrangements of Gilgit* is given in para 22 of the Report. The first summary Settlement after the Dogra conquest was that of 1917, when the tract was assessed at Rs. 7842, taken chiefly in kind, and this had risen to Rs. 10495 in 1950, when the first Regular Settlement was undertaken.

In Astore, according to Part II Section VI of Mr. McHutchin's report, the total amount in 1911 was Rs. 5032, mostly taken in kind, and this rose to Rs. 7666† before the 1st Regular Settlement, chiefly owing to the colonization of the Kamri nullah between 1923 and 1936.

The demand of the district before and after the Regular Settlement, and that now current, are shown in para 24 of the Report.

The Settlement Officer in the same para goes on to quote at length from a note recorded by me in 1910, regarding the character of the Assessments; as my views were the result of a very brief tour in the District, they are perhaps hardly worth mentioning, but further experience does not lead me to modify them much. One point which I misunderstood was the attitude of the people of Gilgit, but not Astore, towards the assessments in grain, to which (unlike all other zamindars with whom I am acquainted) they have no objection: their complaints to me related to *hukmi kharid*, and not to revenue grain.

I have also modified to some extent my views as to the pitch of the assessments. They are on the whole high enough for practical purposes, though far below the standard assessment as now estimated; but they are not so high as they seemed at first sight. In Astore this is mainly due to the advantages derived by the people from their plentiful live-stock, which is not assessed in any way.

*Excluding Haramosh, transferred from Skardo since the first Regular Settlement.

†Rs. 6024, the figure stated in the Report, is taken from Mr. Lawrence's note on the Astore Assessment Report. I do not know which figure is correct.

The demand has risen very considerably since Settlement from Rs. 18476 to 26634, or 44 per cent, and the Settlement Officer says that the reasons are not on record ; but it must be due almost entirely to the assessment of chaks and other nautor, in the latter case contrary to the promises made at Settlement.

It is satisfactory to be able to report that there are no arrears ; though the number of coercive processes issued is rather large in proportion to the number of estates, the revenue appears to have been realized without serious difficulty. The people have received a certain amount of assistance from takavi grants, mostly for purchase of seed, and as special grants in two years for purchase of ponies.

Report 34-37.

8. The classification of land is described in para. 34 of the Report ; including orchards and *ishpati*, the land on which rishka

Classification of land. is grown, nine different kinds of cultivated land have been recorded, and considering that all are irrigated, this is a very detailed classification. Each class, however, has special characteristics, and is recognised by the people as different from the rest, though as regards some classes it must be largely a matter of opinion, (e.g. as between *paji* and *awaji*), where one kind begins and the other ends. Except *das* and *kharkat*, two poor soils which have been lumped together, each class has been treated separately in the assessments.

The assessment proposals might have been simplified a little, by treating the very small *shini* area as *awaji*, and perhaps the *bruin* (or rice land) as *paji*, but these are the only simplifications that were possible.

The land classification has been carefully made, and is evidently fair.

Report 33.

9. The increase in the cultivated area since Settlement, excluding the Jagir villages not previously measured, is 2983 acres, or 30 per cent, and is therefore less than the increase in the

Circle.	Increase per cent in cultivation.	Increase per cent in demand.
1	23	32
2	28	34
3	67	88
Talsil ...	30	38

revenue, as shown in the margin ; it is really a little more than the 30 per cent, as full deductions have now been made for uncultivated plots mixed up with the cultivation, and this was not done at the last Settlement. The natural conclusion that practically the whole of the new cultivation is already fully taken into account is not, however, correct, and the area of 1261 acres,

shown in para. 35 of the Report and there described as "nautor besides chaks" is, I understand, all of it unassessed, consisting, not so much of land broken up since permission to make nautor free of assessment was revised a few years ago, as of land broken up before, which had escaped the vigilance of the somewhat incompetent patwaris, or was otherwise overlooked. The explanation of the fact that unassessed land exists, while the demand has progressed faster than cultivation, is that a large area of uncultivated land included in chaks is assessed, either by mistake, or because it is unculturable, or

because the holders prefer to pay for it as grass land. Its assessment amounts to Rs. 2827 as shown below.

CIRCLE.	Revenue Assessed on chaks.	
	On culti- vated.	On unculti- vated land.
1	Rs. 1673	Rs. 935
2	1947	1131
3	940	761
Talsil ...	4560	2827

The conclusion is that increase in cultivation affords little justification for enhancement of the demand.

10. The land which could easily be brought

Future increase of cultivation under cultivation is now nearly irrigation projects. all cultivated, and the increase in the future must depend largely on irrigation projects carried out with State assistance.

Report 39-

Most of the improvements of this kind which appear to be practicable are fully described in the Report, and it will be seen that their number is considerable. Some of them, such as Janglot, No. 2 in Settlement Officer's list, are very easy, and I understand an estimate has been prepared for this. No. 10 in this list (Zepur) is a project for maintaining and extending existing cultivation, and should be taken up without delay, as the present condition of this kuhl, which I have seen recently, is precarious. The Settlement Officer's list is naturally not exhaustive; I may add for example No. 15, a project for a new kuhl from the Tashing glacier to irrigate Chorit in the Rupal nullah, which seems practicable. The zamindars ask for assistance in dealing with a small *pari*, and would do the rest themselves. I was informed on the spot that the Wazir Wazarat has made a detailed inspection.

In regard to the other projects mentioned, I note briefly as follows:—

Chakarkot-Pari Kuhl.—Completed; it would have been better to omit the Chakarkot branch, and devote attention to Pari, where irrigation is so badly needed. The Political Agent thinks, and I agree, that cultivation of Chakarkot maidan should not be extended.

No. 1.—Sanctioned.

No. 3.—Surveyed.

No. 4.—The Mushkin-Doian project is under enquiry.

No. 5.—Tahsildar has inspected the spot, but no estimate has been made out.

No. 6.—Wazir informs me that the Irrigation Overseer considers this project impossible.

No. 7.—Both Settlement Officer and Wazir have inspected this high kuhl, and the latter will make proposals. It requires roofing, and the people can do the work if allowed remission of kar begar for a year, and assistance in materials and in blasting.

No. 8.—Has been brought under cultivation.

No. 9.—Settlement Officer and Wazir Wazarat agree that the zamindars should be excused from begar for a month or two in the year, and will then be able to keep the kuhl in order.

No. 11.—Rs. 700 was sanctioned, but withdrawn owing to the financial stringency.

No. 12 and 13.—Not yet estimated.

No. 14.—On settlement of the dispute, the zamindars will probably be able to carry out the work.

According to the Settlement Officer's figures the present provision for irrigation works is as follows:—

	Rs.
Overseer and establishment	... ... 1415
Special annual repairs grant for Chakarkot-Pari Kuhl	... ... 1500
For other purposes	... ... 800
 Total	... 3715

Leaving out of account the special case of the Chakarkot-Pari Kuhl, the amount for works is very small indeed, and seeing how much there is that might be done, I quite agree with the Settlement Officer that a larger amount should be provided to keep the staff profitably occupied. I think it should be Rs. 2000 at least.

Report 41. 11. The population per square mile of cultivation is 1096, excluding non-agriculturists, and is somewhat denser in Astore than in Gilgit. For the whole district the density is nearly the same as in Ladakh, which is generally regarded as a sparsely populated country, and is of course far less than in Baltistan: indeed, some parts of the Jammu hills have a denser population than Gilgit.

Nevertheless the figures show a very remarkable increase since the Regular Settlement, of no less than 75 per cent in 22 years so that population has increased much faster than cultivation. The increase seems too large to be correct, though no doubt it partly represents immigration and the return of exiles and captives from the Political districts and independent territory.

The Imperial Census of 1911 gave a population of 23,969, of whom 21,179 were agricultural, (agreeing very closely with the Settlement figure of 21,043 four years later); the increase in the Wazarat and the Political districts together was 29 per cent since 1901, and no earlier statistics were available. The Census Superintendent did not regard even the figures of 1901 as being very reliable.

It is clear, however, that population has increased with a rapidity which indicates that the people are fairly prosperous: and it also indicates the necessity of taking up in earnest the extensions of cultivation discussed in para 10; for there is no reason to suppose that the increase in the population has stopped, or to desire that it should be hindered.

Report 42-44. 12. The people are all Sunnis or Shias, about equal in numbers, the The people : holdings ; Maulais, or followers of the Agha Khan, who are numerous debt. in some parts of the Political districts, not being found in the Wazarat.

Shins and Yeshkuns, who are often on bad terms with each other, are much the most important tribes, holding 13.7 and 53.3 per cent respectively of the land: after them come Kashmiris with 6.8 per cent, and Rajas (a small body of landholders) with 4.6 per cent. The remaining 21½ per cent is held by miscellaneous tribes, chiefly Dums, Kamins, Ronus, and Gujars.

In social status the Rajas, Ronus and Shins come first; and after them the Yeshkuns, who form the bulk of the people.

They are physically strong, but in Gilgit are decidedly lazy, comparing very unfavourably in this respect with the Baltis: the Astoris cannot be called lazy, but have little time to devote to their land. The people are in general quiet and well behaved.

Holdings are small, with an average of only a little over 2 acres, (which, however, is twice as much as the average holding in Skardo), and the Settlement Officer states quite correctly that in many villages, especially in the 3rd Circle, the people cannot produce enough for their own support.

Debt is not high at about Rs. 6 per acre cultivated, and is least in the 3rd Circle; the Settlement Officer thinks that even the moderate indebtedness reported is exaggerated.

13. The figures, showing an enormous increase in live stock since Settlement, cannot be regarded as absolutely reliable, at least as regards sheep and goats, which, probably, were not enumerated with much care at last Settlement, as no Kahcharai demand was proposed. There has no doubt been a large increase, as was only to be expected in view of the great rise in cultivation and population, but it is probably not as large as is shown.

The increase in cows may in part denote the gradual breaking down of the prejudice of the Shins against cow's milk and butter.

The live stock now recorded is fairly plentiful in proportion to the cultivation, though comparatively low especially as regards ponies in the 1st Circle, where grazing is not plentiful. An unusual feature in the 1st Circle is the number of donkeys, which are much used for internal village traffic, especially in villages where ponies are scarce.

	PER HUNDRED ACRE CULTIVATED.				
	Horned cattle.	Ponies & mules.	Donkeys.	Sheep & goats.	
Gilgit.	1st Circle ...	92	6	13	368
	2nd Circle ...	86	15	3	693
	3rd Circle ...	116	34	2	781
	Tahail ...	93	14	7	554
Skardo	...	83	5	2	480
Kargil	...	67	20	4	429

As shown by the figures in the margin Gilgit compares favourably with Baltisan in the matter of live stock.

Report 49-50.

14. Of the profits from live stock, which according to the Settlement

Profits from livestock: Officer's calculations amount to nearly Rs. 70,000, it can
miscellaneous income. only be said that it is impossible to estimate them with
any approach to accuracy, but the assumptions on which this total is arrived
at appear to be moderate.

The gross income from service is nearly Rs. 30,000, to which must
be added a certain amount for earnings by coolie work and otherwise.

In one way and another a good deal of money comes into the district
much more, one would suppose, than is required to pay for imported grain
in Astore, and the few requirements of the people which they cannot produce
for themselves. The Settlement Officer's statement that the people are
generally poor, living from hand to mouth, is I think rather exaggerated, but
it is true of a considerable part of the population.

Report 55.

15. From the description of previous harvests given by the Settlement

Previous harvests. Officer, it will be seen that the harvests have generally
been good, only about one in eight being described as
poor: part of Astore, however, figures rather frequently as an exception, and
that part was, I take it, the cold villages of the 3rd circle, as the usual reason
seems to have been untimely rain and cold. Although all harvests are not
equally good even in the warmer tracts, serious failure is practically unknown,
and no suspensions or remissions of the revenue have ever been given; but
this does not prove very much, as Revenue officers in the State, except in
tracts under Settlement, even now seldom propose such relief.

Report 29.

Report 56.

System and character of agriculture. 16. Para. 56 describes at some length the system
of cultivation, and may be referred to for information
on that subject.

Much labour has been spent on the terracing of the fields, though it
is not nearly so elaborate as in Baltistan, and in the colder villages it is often
omitted, as in that climate sufficient irrigation can be given without levelling
the ground. The irrigation channels also in many cases have been made
and maintained with considerable labour and trouble. These two things are
essential, but the energy or opportunities of the cultivator do not go much
further, and the labour expended on cultivating and manuring the land is far
less here than in Baltistan; on the other hand, the land in its natural state
is decidedly better here. The Settlement Officer suggests that *begar* may be
one reason for the comparatively small attention paid to the land, and no
doubt it is so, but in Gilgit another reason is to be found in the Settlement
Officer's remark that 'during the summer the men spin the wool', while
the work of agriculture is mainly left to the women, with the exception
however of the ploughing, repairs to kuhls, etc., which cannot be left to them.
The Gilgitis sometimes employ Balti labourers for field work, but probably
only when they have more land than they can easily deal with themselves.

Report 57-58.

17. The Settlement Officer, with my approval has based his estimates
Harvests selected for on the crop returns of 1972, which may be taken to have
produce estimate. been an average year. As explained by him, this
was the only year for which the statistics could be relied upon, and in a tract

like this the variation in the cropping from year to year is so small, that the selection of a single season for this purpose is not open to serious objection. It is to be regretted that owing to the arrangements which had to be made for measurement work, the girdawari work even for this year was not all that might be wished, but I do not think that there is really any reason to distrust the figures, though it is probable that, (as is usually the case), sufficient *kharaba* was not recorded, especially in the 3rd Circle. The Settlement Officer had formed the opinion that *kharaba* is about 3, 4, and 6 per cent. in the 1st, 2nd and 3rd circles respectively, but considered this estimate too uncertain to be stated in the Report. I think it is a fair approximation.

18. According to the returns 100 acres of land, taking the average for the whole district, produces 104 acres of crops, of which Crops matured and failed. ■ fail, the figures for each circle being as shown in the

Circle.	Sown.	Matured.	Failed.
1st ...	114	111	3
2nd ...	96	94	2
3rd ...	94	94	...

margin. Even if the *kharaba* figures could be taken as correct this is a poor result compared with those obtained in Baltistan; the people here have not got the superabundant population which both enables and requires the Baltis to get all that is possible out of the land. It should, however, be remembered that a large proportion of the land is either *bagh* producing one crop in the year, or inferior soils which produce at best one crop per annum and at worst one crop in 2 or 3 years: and of the *ishpati* area less than half is classed as *dofasli*. The following figures illustrate this:—

CIRCLE.	PER CENT ON TOTAL CULTIVATION OF.			
	Paji, Bruin, Awaji and Shini.	Ishpati.	Bagh.	Das, Kharkat, and Niral.
1st ...	57	5	3	35
2nd ...	68	5	3	24
3rd ...	80	3	...	17
Tahsil ...	65	5	2	28

19. The principal crops grown are shown in para 59 of the Report; it will be seen that wheat is much the most important crop

Principal crops. (37.2 per cent), and that it is almost equally important in all three circles, a somewhat curious fact, considering the great differences of climate. In Gurez, which adjoins the Astore part of the 3rd Circle, wheat will not grow, though the elevation is less: the Gurez people, (who have shown some disposition to try new crops, and have introduced maize in recent times with success), have given a trial to Astori wheat, but it produces only straw. This shows that even the highest parts of Astore have ■ milder and longer summer than Gurez.

Report 58.

Report 37.

Report 59.

Next to wheat comes maize, 14.2 per cent, but it is mainly in the first Circle, and is negligible in the 3rd.

Giram and barley come next with 11.5 per cent. and in the 3rd Circle are almost as important as wheat, but decrease very rapidly as the climate becomes warmer. The area under barley is inconsiderable.

The other crops which cover a fairly large area are millets and the principal pulses (mung and mash) with 5.7 per cent. each; the former occur chiefly in the 2nd Circle, and the latter are practically confined to the first, where they are preferred as the second crop following wheat in the poorer dosasli lands, while maize follows it in the better.

Other crops deserving mention are rishka, which has been reduced largely in the last five years, owing to unfounded fear that it would be heavily assessed; trumba, bakla, gharas and mattar, all of some importance in the colder circles; and orchards.

In the warmest villages of Gilgit rice and cotton are noticeable, as they are not grown anywhere else in the frontier districts, but the area which they cover is insignificant.

20. The subject of crop yields is very fully dealt with in the Report.

Crop yields.

It is evident that little assistance could be obtained from 'the statements of zamindars,' and the crop experiments, as usual, cannot be followed closely; they are useful, nevertheless, as assisting officers to correct or confirm the opinions they form in other ways. As regards comparison with the rates assumed in other tracts, I quite agree with the observations in the Settlement Officer's para 62, and also with his remarks in para 63 regarding the difficulty in comparing the assumptions now with those made at the last Settlement here.

The Settlement Officer has collected all the information available for forming an opinion as to the yields of each crop, and it would be useless for me to discuss it in detail *. I have examined his proposals carefully, in consultation with him, and think that they are fair. The maize yield in the 2nd and 3rd circles seems high compared with those of the 1st Circle.

Considering the great demand for rishka by the Commissariat Department and others, the Settlement Officer's proposal (para 76) to take into account only one third of the area under this crop strikes me as decidedly liberal, but it is a crop to be encouraged. The assumed outturn of rishka in the 1st Circle also seems low compared with the average of about 56 mds. per acre obtained on the Supply and Transport Department farms; but these farms are in the hotter localities, and their land is better than that which the zamindars put under this crop.

21. On the subject of prices I have little to add to the remarks quoted by the Settlement Officer at the end of para 78. There are no market prices, and it would really have been more

Prices.

*It may be noted that the figures he gives regarding the area under each crop are percentages on the area cultivated not on the total crops sown or matured.

logical to make the whole of our calculations in kind, but this was difficult, and more conventional methods have been followed. The transactions of the Supply and Transport Department are the basis of local prices, and it may be asked why the rates which it is proposed to allow for conversion of revenue grain should not be used in the produce estimate also, if the people can sell the produce which they want to sell at those prices, as I believe they can.

The trouble involved by official dealings in grain, and the fact that the Supply and Transport Department receives 41 seers for every nominal maund, as an allowance for dirt, are arguments for the course adopted.

The Settlement Officer's proposed commutation prices for the revenue grain are about 19 per cent higher than those which he used in the produce estimates (for the same grains). The rishka price will probably be the same.

Even though it is proper not to value the whole produce quite as highly as that part of it which the State buys, it seems to me that the prices assumed may be considered moderate.

It is impossible to say to what extent prices have risen since Settlement, and the point is not important, but there is no doubt that they have risen.

22. Assuming that the standard of assessment will be a percentage of the gross produce, the information relating to cultivating rents, Kamins' dues, and occupancy, rents, etc., given in paras 79 to 83 of the Report, has no bearing on the question of the assessments; but it may be of interest to note that nearly 90 per cent of land is cultivated by the asamis themselves, that the area held by occupancy tenants is only 1 per cent, and that the batai rate is almost invariably half produce. For a calculation of half net assets, (which we have not to make here), cash rents and fixed rents in kind would be negligible*, and we should have to depend on the batai rents, on 23 per cent only of the land, subject to a deduction of 1½ per cent for Kamins' dues and a further small deduction, say ½ per cent, for fodder crops. Half net assets would thus amount to 24½ per cent of the gross produce.

Report 79-83.

23. The standard of assessment proposed, though arrived at in a different way, is not very different, being 27 per cent of the gross produce, which is the same that has been approved for Baltistan, for the reasons given in the Kargil Assessment Report. At the last Settlement here the standard was 25 per cent in Gilgit and 33 per cent in Astore, but there was no definite reason for adopting those particular percentages, and there was certainly none for adopting a higher standard in Astore than in the rest of the district.

Report 84.

The rates obtained by applying the 27 per cent standard to the gross produce as calculated are given in para 84, and the Settlement Officer goes on to show that it is impossible to apply these rates in practice. I agree with him that it is so, and that this does not arise from exaggeration in the calculation of the value of the gross produce; the crop areas recorded cannot be far wrong,

* The very high cash rents shown in para 80 are paid by the Supply and Transport Department for small areas in favourable situations, and not used for agricultural purposes.

though they are a trifle high, particularly in the 3rd Circle, owing to insufficient allowance of kharaba, (which the Settlement Officer says he has taken into consideration in his assumed yields), the rates of outturn are fair, and so are the assumed prices.

The main reason for leniency is the position of the district, surrounded by Political dependencies where the demand seems to be very moderate,* while the adjoining Gurez Niabat was also (quite rightly) treated very leniently at the last Settlement; further 'some weight should be attached to Political considerations' as observed by the Settlement Officers, and to the dependence of the people on agriculture in one part of the tract, and their hard life and inability to produce enough food for themselves in another. An additional point to consider is the liability of the zamindars to furnish supplies of various kinds, on which subject Mr. Fraser's remarks are quoted in para 89 of the Report.

Revenue has risen more rapidly than cultivation, so *naukar* cannot be advanced as a reason for enhancement, nor can the rise of prices be considered an argument of much importance.

24. I do not feel much confidence in 'surplus produce estimates' of the kind made in para : 85 of the Report; there are too many factors as to which no exact information can be obtained: for what it is worth, this calculation shows a surplus of 15404 maunds, in the 1st Circle, and deficits of 3692 and 1572 maunds in the 2nd and 3rd. This agrees fairly well with the known facts that the warmer tracts have a considerable surplus to dispose of, while the colder ilakas have to import grain from Kashmir, or the warmer villages below them. That the surplus is not very large, even in Gilgit, is evident from the fact that most zamindars have nearly exhausted their stock of grain some time before the new crops come in, or at least have only inferior kinds left and subsist on.

25. The 1st Circle consists of the low-lying villages of Gilgit, Bunji, Sai and Haramosh, and as compared with the 1st Circle of Assessments, 1st Circle. Skardo is much lower and warmer, and has a longer season for ripening its crops; the land is better here, and the irrigation at least equally good. With greater natural advantages the Gilgit Circle is certainly less productive, as it has a population of 933 somewhat easy-going people to the square mile of cultivation, while Skardo has 2223 of far superior industry. The Skardo climate also seems better suited for fruit growing; the number of fruit trees here is much smaller, and the fruit is only to a very small extent a source of profit.

One hundred acres of land produce of 110.7 acres of matured crops only, which is low for a circle so situated, and compares unfavourably with 125 acres in the Skardo Circle. The principal crops are wheat, maize, and pulses. Fruit trees are 9 per acre, against 30 in Skardo, and are not commercially valuable.

*Major Macpherson states, however, that no real comparison is possible, the system in the Dependencies being entirely different; the contributions of the people there are largely in the form of unpaid labour and services.

The people have not the same facilities for making money by transport animals as the other circles, though *begar* is heavy, and they are not well off: it seems that with a little more enterprize they ought to be so, but energy is lacking.

The Settlement Officer proposes an assessment of Rs. 17,765 on the land compared with Rs. 10,864, the nominal demand at present; but as a result of the revised arrangements proposed in regard to the revenue in kind, his proposed demand, including kahcharai and cesses, represents an increase from Rs. 18504 to Rs. 20514, or 11 per cent.

The proposed demand on land is only 47.7 per cent of the standard, or 13 per cent. of the estimated gross produce, and from that point of view is very moderate indeed; but in my opinion this leniency is necessary, for reasons already stated, and I cannot suggest that more should be taken.

I shall propose, in the para : dealing with that subject to take no kahcharai assessment, but raise the land revenue assessment proposed, including mills, to Rs. 18200, which, with the addition of enhanced cesses, represents an increase of 7.8 per cent, as shown in the statement given in para : 29.

In his proposed revenue rates the Settlement Officer has been guided chiefly by his own experience, and has not had much regard to his standard rates; the *paji* rate for instance is not much more than one-third of the standard, while the *awaji* rate is half, and the *niral* and *das-kharkat* rates are about two-thirds. No explanation has been given, and it looks as though the Settlement Officer has favoured the superior soils at the expense of the inferior; but the proportions which he adopts are more in accordance with local opinion than those which the standard rates would give, if reduced all round. The lowness of the *ishapti* rate, only a quarter of the standard rate, is not due to the concession proposed in para : 76 of the Report, whereby only one-third of this crop is taken into account, as this adjustment has already been made in the Produce estimate: there are, however, strong grounds for assessing riskha very lightly, and a rate of 12 annas, on land of which the produce is worth about Rs. 18, is certainly light enough.

To raise the demand by revenue rates approximately to that which I actually propose, I make the following alterations:—

Revenue rate on *paji*, Rs. 4.14 instead of Rs. 4.8

bruin „ 4.4 „ „ „ 4.0

awaji „ 3.9 „ „ „ 3.8

The alterations of the *paji* and *bruin* rates are more than justified by the standard rates, while that on *awaji* is inconsiderable.

I agree with the Settlement Officer that (in all circles) there should be no separate assessment on fruit trees.

26. The 2nd Circle includes the villages between about 6000 and 8500 feet, mainly in the Bagrot nullah of Gilgit and the lower Assessments, 2nd Circle. part of Astore with two low-lying but very inferior estates on the Gilgit river. It compares in much the same way as the 1st with the

corresponding circle of Skardo, though the difference in the pressure of the population is not so great. The land is generally good, and irrigation with some exceptions sufficient.

On 100 acres of land 94.4 acres of crops are matured, chiefly wheat, giram, and millets. Though the crop percentage is less than 100 there is a considerable amount of double cropping (cf. para. 16 above), but the second crop is not so good as in the 1st Circle, and may suffer from early cold in the autumn. Mature fruit trees are only 5 per acre against 17 in Skardo. On the whole it is certainly not equal to the Skardo Circle. The Settlement Officer says that the crops suffer to some extent from wild beasts, which is true, but not only of this circle.

The people of this circle have many more ponies than in the 1st Circle, and must make a considerable income from their earnings; they have also far more sheep and goats. They are not however as well off as they ought to be.

The assessment proposed is Rs. 13405 on land, which is 7 per cent. less than the revenue by rates; I see no advantage ordinarily in proposing revenue rates which do not give approximately the demand which it is intended to take; but in this case the deficiency occurs entirely in the single village of Dainyor, one of the hot but very inferior estates mentioned above, and it seems to the Settlement Officer unnecessary to lower the revenue rates of the circle for this one village.

As I do not propose to take any kahcharai revenue, the land revenue proposed by the Settlement Officer, after taking into consideration the alterations in the kind revenue arrangements and increased cesses, would give a decrease of 15 per cent, which appears to me to be more than is needed, and I therefore propose Rs. 14500 as the revenue on land and mills.

As regards the revenue rates generally the remarks on the 1st Circle are more or less applicable, though paji has been rated higher in proportion here.

The rates are $6\frac{1}{2}$ annas lower all round than in Skardo. The assessment proposed by me will be 63 per cent of the standard assessment, which may be considered fair. The net result will be a reduction of 10.5 per cent, taking enhanced cesses into account.

The Settlement Officer's proposed revenue rates give Rs. 14415, which is near enough to the demand of Rs. 14500 proposed by me, but I am disposed to agree with him in leaving Dainyor out of the account, and would raise the paji rate by 4 annas to Rs. 4.4 and that on awaji by one anna to Rs. 3.5, giving a rates jama excluding Dainyor of Rs. 14,811 against Rs. 14,534 actually proposed.

27. The 3rd Circle includes the highest and coldest villages, chiefly in the upper nullahs of Astore. It is inferior on the whole to the 3rd Circle of Skardo, but is better than the 4th.

Population is fairly dense at 1223 to the square mile of cultivation, and the circle is far from being self supporting, and imports a considerable amount of grain from Kashmir or (in Gilgit) from the warmer villages. The people depend largely on the income derived from their ponies and flocks, both of which are numerous: but the long winter involves much trouble in providing them with food. The men are so much busied with transport work that they have comparatively little time to devote to the land. A few villages derive considerable income from work as dak runners, and other miscellaneous services.

On 100 acres of land 93.6 acres of crops are produced, (really less, owing to insufficient kharaba), and double cropping is practically impossible. The one crop produced is however fairly good, unless it is damaged by untimely rain or cold, as not infrequently happens. There is no doubt that in this circle insufficient kharaba has been recorded. The principal crops are wheat giram and trumba. Fruit trees are scarce and of little value, less than 1 per acre cultivated, compared with 17 in the Skardo Circle.

The assessment proposed by the Settlement Officers is Rs. 4010, or 44.4 per cent of the standard assessment, which however is rather too high, owing to insufficient kharaba deductions; I do not think that these have really been compensated for in the assumed rates of yield, as stated in the Report. The Settlement Officer also proposes a kahcharai demand of Rs. 471 making a total of Rs. 4481. I propose no separate kahcharai demand (see para. 28 below), but raise the proposed land revenue demand to Rs. 4500, which is approximately the same as the Settlement Officer's proposal. Taking cesses into account this will give a small enhancement of 4 per cent. (Settlement Officer's increase of 13.2 per cent. para. 116 of Report is obtained by inclusion in the proposed demand of the revenue of Jagir estates not previously assessed, which is not a real increase).

Whatever may be the case in theory, I consider that this circle is actually assessed almost high enough already, and would make little alteration. The neighbouring Gurez Niabat is very lightly assessed.

Of the Revenue rates proposed there is little to say. They seem fair all round, though the rate of 2 annas on grass is somewhat low, and its area is considerable.

28. According to Biddulph, quoted in para. 22 of the Report, the ~~Shin~~ rulers collected a pastoral tax of one sheep or goat every ^{Kahcharai assessment.} other year, or one rupee per annum in cash. The goats valued at Rs. 451-12, which were taken by the State in Gilgit up to the 1st Regular Settlement, were doubtless a survival of this tax; sheep and goats were also taken in Astore. At the last Settlement no kahcharai revenue was assessed, nor does the matter seem to have come under discussion.

Live stock forms a considerable part of the wealth of the people, especially in Astore, and they depend greatly on what it yields them.

I agree with the Settlement Officer, therefore, that in principle kahcharai dues should be taken, but horned cattle except buffaloes (80 in all) are exempt, under the ordinary rules, and transport animals are valuable to the State as well as their owners, and should certainly not be taxed.

The Settlement Officer gives some reasons for not assessing the few buffaloes of the local Gujars, and there remain only the sheep and goats, to the number of 73160, on which a half anna tax as in Baltistan would yield Rs. 2286, and this the Settlement Officer proposes to take, leaving it to the people to put it on the land if they wish.

The Wazir remarks on the necessity of sheep and goats in the rural economy, and points out that the people have to supply them for the troops etc. He thinks that the circumstances have not changed since Settlement, and would merely consider the live-stock in fixing the land revenue of estates.

Since the people by the Settlement Officer's proposal are to treat the grazing fees as land revenue, if they wish, the question is really one regarding the total revenue to be taken, and it makes little difference whether part of it is called kahcharai or not. No grazing fees are levied in the adjoining Political districts, and none are taken in Gurez, while their introduction here would certainly be unpopular. As we are assessing the land far below what is due to the State theoretically, I see no real advantage in taking grazing fees at all. It does not appear that in this district well-to-do or influential men keep very large flocks, or that we need discourage the keeping of flocks, which would be almost the only practical reasons for assessing kahcharai.

I propose therefore that it should not be assessed on this occasion, but in my village assessments I have taken fully into consideration the advantages possessed by each estate in regard to live-stock; in only a few estates is the amount really considerable, and in those I suggest that the Settlement Officer should inform the people to what extent the assessment is due to their flocks, and invite them to distribute it accordingly, but not insist on this if they do not wish it, and no glaring inequality results as between individual asamis.

The Settlement Officer's principal objection is that if kahcharai is included in the land revenue assessment, it makes that of the 3rd Circle seem too high in comparison with other circles, and officers touring in Astore may, (as I did myself in 1910), think that it is more heavily assessed than is really the case. The facts having been placed on record, this objection does not seem to me to be serious.

29. The general results of the proposed assessments are shown in statement appearing on next page:—
Financial results.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
CURRENT DEMAND.																				
Assessment Circle	Cash.	Amount.	At present rate.	Total of Col. 2 and 4.	Cesses.	Total of Col. 2 and 5.	Amount.	At present rate.	Total of Col. 7 and 8.	Cesses.	Total of Col. 12 and 13.	At proposed rate.	Total of Col. 7 and 8.	Amount.	At present rate.	Total of Col. 2 and 5.	Land Revenue.	Total of Col. 15 & 16	PROPOSED DEMAND.	
First	... 5503	Rs. 3871	Rs. 5361	Rs. 10864	Rs. 16043	Rs. 793	Rs. 16836	Rs. 1532	Rs. 2553	Rs. 4221	Rs. 16668	Rs. 18504	Rs. 18200	Rs. 2048	Rs. 20248	Rs. 1116	Rs. 126	Rs. 1620	REMARKS.	
Second	... 7919	Rs. 3171	Rs. 4210	Rs. 8362	Rs. 12129	Rs. 16281	Rs. 17213	Rs. 932	Rs. 1030	Rs. 364	Rs. 607	Rs. 17636	Rs. 14500	Rs. 1631	Rs. 16131	Rs. 1131	Rs. 131	Rs. 1055	In comparing Col. 1820 with Cols. 7, 9 and 14, the assessment of Jagir villages not previously assessed is excluded, <i>viz.</i> ,	
Third	... 3263	Rs. 297	Rs. 378	Rs. 828	Rs. 3641	Rs. 4091	Rs. 291	... ..	... ..	... ..	... ..	Rs. 4382	Rs. 4500	Rs. 506	Rs. 506	Rs. 10	Rs. 40	Rs. 450	Total ... 1080
Total Tahsildar	.. 16685	Rs. 7339	Rs. 9949	Rs. 19730	Rs. 26634	Rs. 36415	Rs. 2016	Rs. 38431	Rs. 1896	Rs. 3160	Rs. 5251	Rs. 2091	Rs. 40522	Rs. 37200	Rs. 4185	Rs. 4185	Rs. 450	Rs. 450	Rs. 450	

For the purpose of calculating the true effect of the proposals, the revenue and hukmi grain paid at present has been taken at the commutation prices now proposed; and enhanced cesses have also been taken into account. The net result is that very small modifications of the present demand are proposed, but it is regularised and more fairly distributed. I believe that the proposals can be recommended with confidence for the approval of the Darbar.

Report 98-109

30. Assessments in kind have been discussed at length in correspondence between Major Macpherson, Political Agent, Gilgit, the Supply and Transport Officer on special duty in Kashmir, the Settlement Officer, Wazir Wazarat, myself. Various questions relating to this subject were also discussed at Rama on 30th September by the officers mentioned, except the Supply and Transport Officer on special duty, in whose absence the Department was represented by Mr. Bowles, I. A. R. O., Supply and Transport Officers, Gilgit. The results of this discussion are printed as appendix A of this Review.

As regards revenue grain the proposals of the Settlement Officer are accepted by all concerned as satisfactory to the Supply and Transport Department and fair to the people. These proposals are to take 8534 maunds* of grain, instead of 7233 mds. revenue and 3014 mds. hukmi kharid grain (total 10247 mds.) due at present; but the actual realizations since Settlement seem to average 8222 mds. only, probably because the Supply and Transport Department, owing to the peculiar system in force, had to take more of the inferior grains than they needed; it is certain that the Department refused to take all that was offered.

It is proposed that the amount of each kind of grain shall be fixed, and this seems to me essential; the Wazir Wazarat has expressed doubts on the subject, thinking that on failure of particular crops in a village the people will find it difficult to produce the amount desired; but it would have to be a very bad failure to produce such difficulties, and I do not think they are likely to arise, except in the case of *dal*, which is an uncertain crop: the Wazir Wazarat in my opinion should be empowered to allow a village where this crop has failed to substitute for that year other grain valued at the same rate.

The commutation prices hitherto in force are very low, *viz* in Gilgit giram and shali at Re. 1-1-9 per md. and other grains at Re. 1-7, and in Astore Re. 1-4 for all grains. The rates proposed with the concurrence of all the officers consulted are:

Wheat, mash, mung, Rs. 3 per md.

Maize, giram, and barley Rs. 2-8 per md.

Although there are no real market prices, these rates may be taken to represent fairly the local value of the grain. They are really rather lower than they seem, as the Supply and Transport Department takes 41 seers per md. to allow for dirt; this subject was not mentioned at the meeting of 30th September, but I discussed it subsequently with the officers then present, and came to the conclusion that the practice should continue, but that the Supply and Transport

* Wheat 4196 mds.
Maize 2735 "
Giram 1182 "
Mung, Mash 421 mds.

Department should give receipts showing the full weight received, and the amount of the deduction for dirt. It is not possible for the zamindars to pay really clean grain.

31. Hukmi kharid grain is abolished : the Political Agent thinks that the objection to this was not hukmi kharid itself but the low prices given for it, compared with khush kharid, but I believe there were other objections, one being the uncertainty of the demand. If the system is maintained at all, the amount of each kind of grain should be fixed ; but it is better to do away with it altogether.

Hukmi kharid grain to be abolished ; proposals regarding hukmi fodder.

The Supply and Transport Department at present receive hukmi *rishka*, (or *bhusa* at the option of the zamindars) to the amount of 5590 mds. and it appears necessary to maintain some arrangement of the kind, as fodder is too bulky to be imported easily. The Settlement Officer therefore proposed to assess 650 mds.* as revenue, and 5590 mds. of hukmi *bhusa*, plus 400 mds. of *rishka* and 1000 mds. of *bhusa* for the use of the officers stationed in the district. This gave a total of 400 mds. hukmi *rishka* and 6590 (or 6600) mds. hukmi *bhusa*, which the Settlement Officer proposed to distribute as stated in the report. These proposals have been somewhat enlarged as noted below, and as stated in appendix A paras : 1-5 and 7-9, for the reasons stated therein.

As regards the price to be allowed for this fodder, cost of carriage complicates the matter : the Settlement Officer's proposal is to allow 12 annas per md. for *rishka* delivered at Pari and Gilgit, and 10 annas elsewhere, and to value *bhusa* everywhere at 8 annas.

Major Macpherson considers it absolutely essential that the demand for fodder should be met as far as possible by hukmi kharid, and he points out that the requirements of the Supply and Transport Department, over and above what is produced on their own farms, are 15000 mds. which is likely to be much increased, so that the Settlement Officer's proposed amount of 7000 mds. is less than half what is required. The Political Agent further points out that the amount of hukmi *rishka* proposed is based on the existing area under that crop, which has fallen by about one half in six years in the villages close to Gilgit, owing to unfounded apprehensions of severity in assessment. He would take a much larger amount, but allow the people 2 or 3 years work up to it.

The matter was discussed at the meeting of 30th September, and it is now proposed to take (in addition to the revenue *rishka*,) 1342 mds. of hukmi *rishka* and 6860 mds. of hukmi *bhusa*, which the local officers consider can be done without objection, (appendix A paras : 3 and 5).

Major Macpherson regards the present rates for fodder, which the Settlement Officer proposes to continue, as much too high, and suggests 10 and 6 annas for *rishka* and *bhusa* respectively both for revenue and hukmi fodder, for application throughout the district ; and he seems to give good reasons for this opinion : he would fix the receiving centres in such a

600 mds. in the Report, but 650 actually proposed in the village assessments.

way that no extra allowance for carriage may be necessary, and would offer inducements to the people to bring the fodder in themselves from the more distant centres.

The matter was discussed on 30th September, and the conclusion arrived at (appendix A para: 6) was that 10 annas and 6 annas for rishka and bhusa are fair rates, and should be applied all round, these villages which are too distant to be expected to sell at these rates being omitted altogether. It is a decided and legitimate grievance in Astore at present that grass has to be brought in from a distance of several stages without payment of transport charges, and this should not be allowed to continue. This grass, which is ordinary hay and not rishka, is not included in the figures relating to hukmi fodder given above. The proposals in para. 10 of appendix A are recommended for sanction, and should remove the present grievance.

32. It is proposed (appendix A para. 11), to take a small number of goats as Hukmi goats. 'hukmi' from villages which can easily furnish them ; the proposal seems unobjectionable and may be sanctioned.

33. A minor point in connection with grain and fodder supply is the arrangement for supply to officials at Gilgit. The Political Agent has suggested that a certain amount of revenue grain and hukmi fodder should be delivered direct to the officers concerned by the zamindars, the price being recovered from them by the State. This arrangement will save much trouble, eliminating the Supply and Transport Department as an intermediary ; and it was approved at the discussion of 30th September, see para 13 of appendix A.

34. As regards the suggestion made by Major Macpherson in his note dated the 20th September, (comments on paras 104 105 of the Report), that grain received as revenue should be made over to Supply and Transport Department free of charge, I do not think it necessary to give an opinion ; it is entirely a matter between the Darbar and the Government of India, and does not affect the assessment proposals.

MISCELLANEOUS PROPOSALS RELATING TO ASSESSMENTS.

Report 109.

35. I agree with the Settlement Officer that no revenue should be taken in gold in future : it is always a subject of complaint, and the system probably causes some loss of license fees to the State. As the villages which are entitled to wash for gold without licenses are willing and anxious to forego this privilege, if excused from payment of gold revenue, there is certainly no reason for disregarding their wishes.

Report 110.

36. The lambardari cess is, and will remain, the usual 5 per cent, but its amount will be much increased by the proper valuation of the grain revenue.

Cesses.

The patwar cess varying from 2 to 4 per cent. was raised in 1907 to $4\frac{1}{4}$, the usual rate, but the change was deferred until resettlement; the Settlement Officer now proposes $6\frac{1}{4}$ per cent, and even this will not be enough to meet the expenses of the patwar fund; this proposal follows the precedent created in Skardo, and for the same reasons, the inadequacy of the ordinary rate, and the fact that road and school cesses are not proposed.

The total cesses will thus be $11\frac{1}{4}$ percent instead of $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent usually levied.

37. I concur in the Settlement Officer's proposals regarding malikana, which follow the usual lines. In this connection para 15 of appendix A may be referred to. The Jagirdars of this district are for the most part very poor, and I should like to be authorized to make proposals for remission of malikana on the Jagir files in deserving cases.

38. Watermills are at present unassessed when built on land belonging to the zemindars, and assessed to ground-rent when built on khalsa land, but apparently only in the case of those constructed since 1894, the total ground rent being Rs. 41-2 on 58 mills.

Raja Alidad Khan and his brother Raja Kamal Khan were allowed at last settlement under the sanction of the Darbar to realize amounts varying from 12 annas to Rs. 5 on the mills of four estates. The Resolution (No. 16, dated 26th September 1894*) appears to be superseded by Resolution No. 17, dated 20th October 1894, whereby all dues on mills were abolished and in Raja Alidad's case no realizations have actually been made for a long time past, though Raja Kamal Khan apparently has taken his dues. The Settlement Officer holds that these dues should be discontinued, and I think he is right.

By order of the Settlement Officer (not reported to the Darbar) the lambardars of Gilgit were allowed at last settlement to take Rs. 20-8 on 12 mills, and have actually taken Rs. 21. This is certainly wrong, and should be stopped: the pachotra of these lambardars on the new assessments will be much increased, and they will have no reason for complaint.

The practice of assessing mills to ground-rent is in force nowhere else in the State; it is clear that with an average of five mills for every village they cannot be source of much profit, and I agree with the Settlement Officer that it is enough to consider them in the general assessments; and this has been done.

39. I agree with the Settlement Officer and the Wazir that ground rent should be levied only on shops occupying khalsa land at Gilgit, Bunji and Astore; I do not understand the distinction between commercial and uncommercial shops.

Report 111.

Report 112.

Report 114.

*The Resolutions referred to are not available in my office.

Report 113.

40. The Settlement Officer's proposals, in which I understand the Wazir concurs, seem to be well considered, and may be sanctioned. They are to fix the following instalments.

Instalment.	Astore.	Gilgit.
15th Bhadon to 15th Assuj	½ cash.	whole cash.
15th Poh to 15th Magh	½ cash.	...
1st Maghar to end Magh	Whole revenue in kind.	

The Settlement Officer does not consider it necessary that special dates should be fixed for payment of hukmi fodder and goats.

Report 115.

41. I agree with the Settlement Officer that the assessment should be announced for 20 years, the usual term, from Rabi 1974. Introduction of new assessments, and term of Settlement.

Report 11.

42. No orders are required on para 11 of the Report relating to the rights and liberties of the people in regard to trees. Rights in trees. The omission of Sonikot from the group of village close to Gilgit where mulberry restrictions have been retained, has been reported separately.

Report 35.

43. It might have been possible to find justification for the withdrawal in 1958 of the permission to break up land in the villages free of assessment granted at Settlement, though it was hardly right to do so before the term of that Settlement (10 years only) had expired; but the assessment with retrospective effect of land already broken up was a distinct breach of faith, and ought not to have been allowed. I noted on the point in 1910 and my proposals were sanctioned, but it appears that they were not given practical effect until settlement operations began. Nawar.

The Settlement Officer has not stated what he proposes for the future, but he tells me that the arrangements already sanctioned may continue, and I see no reason to advocate a change.

Report 40.

44. The possibility of establishing a Dairy farm, to relieve the people of the duty of supplying milk to the troops and officials was suggested by the late Resident in Kashmir, when he visited Gilgit some years ago. The difficulties of managing such a business officially are considerable, and the local officers at the time considered it impracticable. The Settlement Officer thinks that it is not impossible, and suggests means of trying the experiment near Gilgit; it may be worth trying at either of the two places mentioned, but details would require working out, and I would suggest that the experiment, if made, should be on a small scale to begin with. The Basin project has the advantage that if the Dairy proved a failure, the expenditure on the kuhl would not be lost, as the land would be valuable for ordinary cultivation. Dairy farm.

45. I agree with the Settlement Officer that the orders regulating the transfer of right of cultivating occupancy in Ladakh should be extended to this district.

Report 45.

46. The utter failure of the attempts at horse and mule breeding in 1901-4 was very likely due to the stallions being unsuited to the local mares, and it is evident that the people themselves did not take any interest in the operations. If the attempt is renewed, I think it should be with stallions obtained locally, or from the countries from which ponies are already imported. There is probably not much amiss with the local breed, having regard to the climate and conditions under which it has to work, and it should be possible to improve its quality by breeding from the best specimens.

The holding of a Horse and Cattle show on the occasion of the Annual Darbar might well be tried.

Report 48.

47. (34)* The Settlement Officer endorses the suggestion I made in 1910 that the minimum size of trees which may be felled should be reduced from 6 to $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet, but that permits should be partly for larger trees. I see no objection, but if a Forest Officer is to inspect the forests, the point might wait until this is done: with a wider acquaintance with the forests of the district, I do not feel certain that the minimum size need be reduced everywhere.

Report 54.

(36) The Settlement Officer would not allow uncontrolled removal of dead and fallen timber, but would allow its removal under supervision from time to time; as there is no establishment for supervision, there does not seem so much ~~ntage~~ in fixing particular times for the purpose, but it might be tried, if it is thought too risky to give general permission.

(37). Boundary pillars where forests adjoin cultivation, merely to show the limits beyond which cultivation must not be extended, should be erected, if at all, by the Settlement Department, which is best able to say where they are wanted, and the Settlement Officer now undertakes to see to this work. The point is not of much importance in this district.

(39) I have not seen the correspondence referred to by the Settlement Officer. My suggestion was merely that if the Settlement Officer had reason to think that the forests are endangered under existing arrangements, a qualified Forest Officer should visit the country and advise. The late Wazir's objection that the country cannot be afforested was not to the point; it is a question of preserving existing forests, not of trying to clothe the bare dry hills where none exist, which would indeed be a hopeless task. I observe from the Report that the Political Agent, Gilgit, has strongly advised the deputation of a Forest Officer to inspect the Forests, and I think this should be done; to depute a Ranger merely, as suggested by the Settlement Officer, would not in my opinion be useful.

*These Nos. refer to the paras of my note of 1910 quoted by the Settlement Officer in his Report.

Report 108.

48. The Settlement Officer proposes the reduction of the grain muharrir, and he seems to make out a good case for it ; with only 80 estates in the district the Wazir Baki Navis is very lightly worked, and should be able to do the grain muharrir's work as well. The Wazir Wazarat, however, thinks that he will not be able to do so, and, after discussing the point with him, I consider that it will be best to see the new assessments in operation for a year or two before reducing this muharrir.

Report 117.

49. Attempts to relieve the people of the duty of furnishing supplies have met with little success, but the appointment of contractors Kar begar ; supplies and transport. at the principal centres is being tried. It is too early as yet to say how far success may be obtained

The Settlement Officer promises a separate report on the transport arrangements, and the matter need not be discussed here. I should like to mention one point, however, namely the detention of Astore ponies at Gilgit and Bunji after delivering loads there; they are not allowed to recross the bridges without a permit, and are often kept hanging about for a long time in a country where they cannot feed their ponies properly except at expense which they will not incur ; they may also be carried off with loads to Nomal Gupis or Chilas, a journey to which last place is an infliction. The point was discussed at the meeting of 30th September, see appendix A para 14 ; the chief hope of amelioration lies in increasing the number of mules at the disposal of the Supply and Transport Department.

Report 118-9.

50. No fresh orders are required regarding the Kanungo establishment Kanungo establishment. and as to patwaris a separate report should be submitted, with 'halqa bandi' proposals as usual.

51. The Settlement Officer proposes the appointment of zaildars, Zaildars. exist at present, with the possible exception of Kama Shah of Pukarkot ('Fakirkot') : the Wazir Wazarat had doubts as to this proposal and the Political Agent was decidedly against it ; in his No : 271, dated 8th August to the Settlement Officer, he pointed out certain objections which are not I think peculiar to Gilgit, viz., the dislike of the people for innovations, the variety of religions and castes, the tendency to form factions, the possible want of suitable candidates, and the danger of the zaildar agency becoming oppressive. He suggested that if zaildars are appointed it should be experimentally in the first instance ; and preferred the appointment of Safed poshes, which would be valued as conferring much izzat, and would give the local authorities a means of rewarding appropriately men who do really good work and have rendered themselves worthy of distinction. In this case too he would make the appointments experimentally and on a small scale.

My views at first were much the same as Major Macpherson's, but as the result of the discussion of the subject, I have come to the conclusion that the appointment of zaildars may be tried, and this is also the present opinion of the Political Agent and the local officers.

They think Safedposhes unnecessary, but I see no reason why there should not be a few Safedposhi inams as well, in accordance with the usual

practice, to reward those who have done good service, but who are not needed as zaildars ; the Settlement Officer also now sees no objection.

If these suggestions are approved the Settlement Officer may work out detailed proposals in consultation with the Wazir Wazarat ; and I hope that if the usual $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent allowed is somewhat exceeded, it will not be objected to.

52. In para : 123 of the Report the Settlement Officer gives some particulars of the receipts by the State from the Political districts, with which the present Report is not concerned. No definite information is available as to the payments of the people to their own local authorities, but as far as I have heard they are very leniently taxed, and this fact must react to some extent on the assessment of the Wazarat.

53. This is the last Assessment Report to be submitted by S. Thakar Singh ; it is now 12 years since he joined the State Settlement Department, receiving promotion to the post of Assistant Settlement Officer in Ladakh in 1906, and to that of Settlement Officer in Baltistan in 1910. During his tenure of the appointment of Settlement Officer in the Frontier districts he has had to deal with many difficulties due to the extremely mountainous nature of the country, its distance from Kashmir, and its trying climate ; the management of the establishment of even a small settlement under such conditions is in itself not always an easy task.

The problems with which he has had to deal have been far from easy, and he has brought sound common sense and industry to bear on their solution. The assessments hitherto made by him are working well, and I am confident that those of Gilgit will not prove an exception.

His personal character has been all that could be desired.

The present Report is a very good one, and the only fault I have to find with it is its length, and a somewhat defective arrangement of subjects.

I am glad to be able to endorse the Settlement Officers's remarks as to the helpful co-operation in the work of the Settlement of M. Muhammad Abdulla, Wazir Wazarat, and L. Udho Ram Tahsildar.

The subordinate officers mentioned by the Settlement Officer, I believe, deserve the commendations bestowed on them.

SHALTENG : }
Dated the 12th October 1916. }

W. S. TALBOT,
Settlement Commissioner,
Jammu and Kashmir State.



APPENDIX. A.

Note of points discussed at Rama on 30th September 1916.

The Settlement Officer stated that as the deficiency in the Ladakh Granaries is now being supplied from Kashmir, the Skardo grain is not needed for that purpose ; he suggests that the Rondu revenue grain, 322 m. 7 srs. wheat, and 425 md. 34 srs. giram and barley, should be delivered at Bunji or Astore, which are no further than Skardo, the zamindars receiving a suitable amount for cost of carriage.

The Rondu prices are 17 seers per Re. for wheat, and 18 for giram and barley ; this is roughly Rs. 2/8 per Md. and it could be delivered at Bunji for about Rs. 4 to Rs. 4/2/-, on which price Mr. Bowles said that the Supply and Transport Department would be glad to have it.

The Settlement Officer suggests that the grain should be collected at Stak ; and that reasonable rates for carriage thence would be Re. 1 per Md. to Sasli in Haramosh, and annas 8 from Haramosh to Bunji.

For the Rondu villages on the left bank of the Indus Astore *via* the Harpo La would be nearer, but Mr. Bowles stated that if delivered there his department would send it on to Bunji.

2. In this connection the track from Haramosh to Rondu was mentioned ; it would obviously be an advantage if it could be made passable for pack animals, and this would open up in several places land which cannot be reached by cattle. The Settlement Officer has seen the path, and says that only 3 or 4 *parris* have to be dealt with to make it passable, and he offers to visit the spot with an overseer in order to get an estimate made. This might be arranged.

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3. It is thought that there is no objection to hukmi fodder being taken if fair rates are fixed ; but the Settlement Officer and Wazir Wazarat think that no more rishka should be taken than is absolutely essential ; 1000 Mds. revenue and hukmi is proposed at present, and the Settlement Officer thought this might be raised to 1500. Mr. Bowles wants 2000 Mds, at least. The Settlement Officer will further consider the matter with the Wazir Wazarat and see what he can propose.

Note.—The Settlement Officer has since made out with the concurrence of the Wazir Wazarat a distribution list giving 1342 Mds. hukmi rishka, which with the revenue rishka, will give about 2000 Mds. altogether. The hukmi rishka is proposed in practically all the villages of Gilgit (including Bunji and Haramosh) at 6 Mds. per acre in the Sharot group and 5 Mds. elsewhere.

Mr. Bowles stated that the rishka farms yield 50 to 60 Mds. per acre, which is much more than the yield assumed in the Assessment Report.

4. It is possible to extend the rishka farms, though the Supply and Transport Department is not keen to do so, and extension is already being made at Janglot opposite Bunji; but the need is more at Gilgit than Bunji,

The Settlement Officer urges that a small area of the land available at Jutial should be taken in hand experimentally, and is confident that it will be a success.

5. The Supply and Transport Department want as much hukmi bhusa as they can get, at Bunji and Gilgit. The Settlement Officer has proposed 6600 Mds. and could raise it to 7000; but he and the Wazir Wazarat, in the case of bhusa also, would not take more than is essential, thinking it better that the excess should be obtained by khush kharid. He and the Wazir may consider this matter also, and see what can be proposed.

Note.—The list subsequently made out by the Settlement Officer, with the concurrence of the Wazir Wazarat, gives 6860 Mds. of hukmi bhusa, only slightly more than proposed before.

6. The rates proposed by Political Agent *viz.*, -/10/- for rishka and -/6/- for bhusa, are considered reasonable, and after some discussion it was concluded that these rates had better be applied to all villages; those which are too far from a receiving centre to be expected to deliver fodder at these rates had better be left out altogether; the arrangement at first suggested, of allowing 2 annas more to villages more than 4 or 5 miles from the centre, would offer some difficulties in practice.

Note.—The list referred in note to para 3 includes villages which are apparently too distant from a receiving centre to bring in fodder without an allowance for carriage, *e.g.* those in Haramosh and Bogrot.

For transport of fodder from one centre to another cost of carriage would be paid. The Supply and Transport Department may be able to manage its transport themselves when they have more mules, but could not do so at present

7. Haramosh revenue grain should be delivered at Pari; it may be possible to obtain some hukmi rishka from Haramosh; the Settlement Officer could not state how much, but it would not be a large amount.

Note.—In the list referred to in note to para 3 Settlement Officer proposes to take 250 mds. rishka from Haramosh.

8. The rates for hukmi supplies may be reconsidered after six years; for revenue supplies there seems to be no need for such reconsideration, which would involve alteration of the internal distribution of the demand in the villages.

9. The Astore rakhs (Chongra and Idgah) cover 15 acres only, and are estimated to yield about 300 mds. of grass; it is not desirable that they should be made over to the zamindars for ordinary cultivation. Mr. Bowles could not say whether the Supply and Transport Department would be willing to take them over, either for entire management on payment of a small rent to the State, or by purchase of the standing grass. If they were taken over for management, 2 chauki-